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Umm el-Fahm official arrested for Hamas links

By ELLI WOHLGELER and news agencies

The deputy mayor of Umm el-Fahm and four businessmen from eastern Jerusalem were arrested yesterday on suspicion of running a Palestinian investment company that served as a financial arm of Hamas, police said.

Police say the company channeled funds from abroad to Hamas, and to jailed activists and their families.

Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai signed an order outlawing the organization, and Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman ordered all its assets in eastern Jerusalem confiscated.

At a remand hearing yesterday, the Jerusalem Magistrate's Court ordered Mazen Sinokrot, a resident of Beit Hanina and founder of the House of Money investment company, and a second businessman, Salah Aballah, 55, of Ras al-Amud, remanded for eight days.

Judge Ori Ben-Dor ordered the release on bail of another businessman, Amin Shwaki, 38, saying police were too hasty in arresting him, and that allegations against him appeared to be unsubstantiated.

Suleiman Ighbarieh, the deputy mayor of Umm el-Fahm, and a fourth businessman, Nadar Dajani, are scheduled to appear in court today.

Jawad Bolous, the attorney for the arrested men, denied that they had been involved in any illegal activities.

Police spokeswoman Linda Menuhin said Ighbarieh was arrested for running a branch of the company out of the Umm el-Fahm city hall.

The House of Money was established in Ramallah four years ago as an Islamic alternative to banks. Investors deposit money and the company enters into partnerships with entrepreneurs. Investors then get profits instead of fixed interest, which is prohibited by Islamic law.

Thousands of Palestinians have reportedly done business with the company, which has branches in Nablus, Jenin, and the Gaza Strip, but does not acknowledge operating in Jerusalem or anywhere in Israel.

Maccabi Tel Aviv hoop champs again

By ELI GROMER

Maccabi Tel Aviv won its fifth consecutive National Basketball League title, its 27th in the last 28 years and 38th overall, with a 94-80 victory over Hapoel Eilat in Yad Eliahu last night.

The win concluded a 3-0 series sweep for the champions and ensured that Maccabi will compete in the prestigious EuroLeague again next season.

Doron Sheffer led a balanced Maccabi scoring attack with 19 points. Randy White and Oded Katash added 15 and 14 points, respectively.

Eilat's Joe Harwell led all scorers with 21.

"People took it for granted that we were going to win the championship, but they don't realize the amount of hard work that went into making this happen," said Sheffer. Match report, Page 20.



Sharon's map
National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon points out Israel's security needs to US House Speaker Newt Gingrich yesterday during a tour of the West Bank. Story, Page 2. (Flash 90)

Jordanian foreign minister: Hussein not speaking with Netanyahu Jordan refuses entry to Sheikh Ahmed Yassin

By LIAT COLLINS and JAY BUSHINSKY

King Hussein has basically cut off all contact with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Jordanian Foreign Minister Jawad Anani said yesterday.

Speaking to Israel Radio's English service, Anani said: "They are not only [on] a non-talking basis, but the king right now is not happy ... he's not happy at all."

A senior government source, however, denied that Hussein is no longer talking to Netanyahu, contending that Israel's relationship with Jordan "has not changed."

Anani said the monarch has been particularly frustrated since the two-hour meeting he had with Netanyahu in Eilat last month.

Instead of telling the king "good

news," that Israel is willing to accept the US proposal of a 13% further redeployment, "we were asked to accept and understand [the] Israeli position. That would not [have required] a meeting, a small letter would have sufficed," Anani said.

Asked if it is difficult to maintain or increase cooperation with Israel because of the stalemate in the peace process, Anani said: "I think [the stalemate] is putting too much pressure on us by our neighbors in the Arab world, and everybody is accusing us of really encouraging the current Israeli government to keep on maintaining its current unacceptable position."

He also said Jordan does not deal with the peace process in terms of ultimatums or dates.

"This is not our approach. We do not do that, but then, you know we

have to remind the Israelis that we are making a great deal of sacrifice[s] on the other side."

Relating to Anani's comments, the government source said, "We don't know of any intention to sever the connection between the king and the prime minister."

This view was reinforced by Foreign Ministry spokesman Aviv Shir-On's account of director-general Eytan Bentsur's meetings in Amman on Sunday with both Anani and the head of the royal court, Faysal Tarawneh.

"The talks were conducted in a positive atmosphere," Shir-On said. "Bentsur emphasized the government of Israel's intention to go on with the peace process and move it forward. The hosts [Anani and Tarawneh] stressed Jordan's desire to contribute to the advancement of the peace

process."

Bentsur updated them about the latest developments, Shir-On said.

The source noted that after the meeting in Eilat last month, Hussein sent Netanyahu "a friendly letter" in which he referred to him six times as "my friend."

Reuters adds: Jordan has refused entry to Hamas spiritual leader Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, just months after winning his release from an Israeli jail, the movement's Jordan representative said yesterday.

Mohammed Nazzal said Yassin, on a Middle East tour to rally support for Palestinians, had notified Jordanian officials of his plans to visit Jordan tomorrow.

"We told them about the dates... They told me they were not ready to receive him and they did not give any reason," Nazzal said.

Mordechai calls for double-digit pullout

By HERB KEINON and JAY BUSHINSKY

Israel should decide on a double-digit withdrawal, Defense Minister Mordechai told a visiting group of French parliamentarians yesterday.

He also said that Israel should come to an agreement now with the Palestinians on the scope of the third redeployment.

But National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon said that he expects the security cabinet to discuss his proposal for a 9 percent withdrawal from "quality" areas that would give the Palestinians contiguous land areas.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who began a three-day visit to China yesterday, is scheduled to convene the security cabinet when he returns on Friday.

Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky, meanwhile, took the US to task for proposing a 13% withdrawal. "The Americans proposed a redeployment of 13% and in so doing violated a basis of the Hebron Agreement, under which the Americans don't set numbers for a redeployment," he told reporters.

Tourism Minister Moshe Katzav said on Israel Radio that the cabinet is unanimously opposed to the US proposal. "I don't believe there is anyone in the government ready to accept 13%," he said. "There are no disagreements on this matter in the cabinet."

Science Minister Michael Eitan dismissed reports that the security cabinet had rejected a new US proposal calling for a combined second- and third-stage withdrawal of 15%.

In a related development, President Ezer Weizman told the visiting delegation of US congressmen, headed by House Speaker Newt Gingrich, that the government needs to decide on the scope of the second redeployment soon, or face a deepening of the crisis with the Palestinians.

"I think that we have to find a way to sit down with [PA Chairman Yasser] Arafat again and find a solution, because if we don't find a solution, something will blow up," he said.

Regarding Arafat's fighting terror, Weizman said, "I think he is doing so, perhaps not enough, but more than I expected."

Weizman told the delegation

that Israel, when it controlled the territories, also did not succeed in preventing terrorism.

Meanwhile, a senior government source said yesterday that he is "optimistic about finding a formula which the government would find quite satisfactory, one with which the US would agree and which the Palestinians would approve."

Considerable encouragement was taken at the official level from the attitudes expressed by the visiting congressional delegation. This was attributed to the visitors' view that, as expressed by the source, "Congress is on Israel's side on the security issue and that there is unanimity that Israel should be the only one to decide on matters concerning its security. On the other hand, they want peace to advance just as we do."

Another government official observed that Gingrich canceled two items on his itinerary, a stop at the projected US Embassy site in Jerusalem and a trip to Har Homa. He also contended that Gingrich was reluctant to join Sharon on a helicopter tour of the West Bank.

The source said the delegation did not take exception publicly to the Clinton administration's handling of the peace process.

"They present a united front and don't criticize the administration while abroad, unlike their Israeli counterparts who assail their government while outside the country," AP adds.

Skeptical about US mediation efforts, the Palestinians are working to convene an Arab summit that would declare that relations with Israel are being frozen, chief Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat said yesterday.

Arafat flew to Saudi Arabia on Sunday to discuss the idea, while Egypt, Jordan, Syria, the United Arab Emirates, and Qatar have already agreed to attend, he said.

The summit is to be convened shortly after the US peace initiative has played itself out, Erekat said. The summit would pick up where a similar conference left off two years ago - with a warning that the Arab world would suspend normalization unless Israel carried out its obligations in previous peace accords.

David Bar-Ilan, Netanyahu's communications adviser, reacted by saying, "We don't believe the peace process should be accompanied by threats."

Beware of bogus Viagra from Lebanon

By JUDY SEGEL

Bogus pills that look like the anti-impotence drug Viagra could be the next counterfeit "medication" to reach Israel and the territories from a giant factory in Lebanon's Bekaa Valley, which Interpol believes is the world's largest producer of phony drugs.

So says Yaakov Katz, the Health Ministry's Tel Aviv district pharmacist, who has been very busy in recent weeks considering doctors' applications for personal import of Viagra on behalf of their patients.

Katz told The Jerusalem Post yesterday that according to experts, 80% of the Viagra sold worldwide on the black market is not the real drug; which is produced in the US by Pfizer.

It is likely that the counterfeit pills are harmless but useless diamond-shaped blue pills, with no active ingredient, he said.

"What is ironic is that the black-market pills cost twice the price of Viagra gotten by prescription - \$10 in the US, where the Food and Drug Administration approved its use, and NIS 62.50 in Israel, where it has not yet been registered by the Health Ministry but had been obtainable via personal imports."

The ministry this week suspended, for the time being, the personal import of Viagra while it waits for the results of FDA investigations into the deaths of six heart patients in the US who were taking Viagra.

Pfizer repeated warnings that patients on nitroglycerine and related heart drugs, as well as those with serious ophthalmological problems, should not use the anti-impotence pill. Using Viagra and cardiac drugs could cause patients' blood pressure to fall to dangerous levels.

But there is as yet no proof that Viagra caused the deaths, as the men were middle aged or elderly in any case. Millions of pills have been taken with no serious complications.

The Palestinian Authority Health Ministry warned yesterday against using Viagra, which is being sold illegally in the autonomous areas.

"We recommend that men don't take Viagra and warn pharmacists and merchants not to disseminate the drug," said Ziad Shaat, who is

responsible for the pharmaceutical division.

A Palestinian newspaper has reported that Viagra is being smuggled into the territories from Egypt and being sold for NIS 100 a pill. But it isn't known if these blue pills are the real thing or counterfeit.

Katz said that Customs Service inspectors already have been alerted to look out for supplies of smuggled Viagra.

Tourists who have reasonable supplies cannot be arrested - even though they can say the pills are for their personal use and then sell them to Israelis - but local residents may not bring them in.

Before the ministry's suspended personal import permits, ministry district pharmacists had approved only seven prescriptions for Viagra out of as many of 120 signed by urologists and other doctors in recent weeks.

"Form 29, which must be filled out individually and in detail by physicians, is carefully gone over by the district pharmacist before the pills can be dispensed by pharmacies," Katz said.

"We can't check whether doc-

tors in fact examine patients and make sure that they aren't taking drugs that conflict with Viagra. But the documents state clearly that applying for personal import makes them clearly responsible for anything happens to the patient. Only if a drug is registered by the ministry does the government become responsible if something goes wrong."

"People have gone berserk about this pill. They think that if it helps non-performers become sexual performers, it will turn performers into superstars, but this is not true," said Katz.

The ministry has received no request from Pfizer or a local importer to register Viagra.

"It may be that [Pfizer] wants to do it by itself instead of sharing profits with an importer," Katz suggested, "but Israel is also not a high priority on its list. In the UK, Viagra will be licensed only in October and in Germany in November. Japan and China would probably come before Israel."

The ministry won't register the drug without such a request. Evaluating a request would take several months.

Yuval Rabin chides Barak

By LARRY DERFNER

Yuval Rabin, the head of Dor Shalom, yesterday criticized Labor Party leader Ehud Barak for failing to offer a clear alternative to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's policies.

"I think Barak has to find a larger issue than drafting yeshiva students into the army," Rabin told The Jerusalem Post.

"What is his program for moving the peace process forward? What is his program for concluding the peace process? I would expect that Barak, as a candidate for prime minister, would be giving clear, unambiguous statements on these issues."

Rabin, son of slain prime minister Yitzhak Rabin, said he supports Barak for prime minister, and lauded his "personal capabilities."

At the same time, though, Rabin said the opposition is ineffective, because "neither the leader of the opposition, nor any other personality or political body is leading

the struggle in a well defined way, or offering a clear, determined alternative."

Barak, however, insisted that the only problem the opposition has is the carping by many opposition members. "The 'street' is not dead, it's that our people keep saying it's dead, so the media write it up that way," Barak said. He

insisted there is much opposition to Netanyahu "under the surface," especially in development towns.

Asked whether he favors the US plan for a 13 percent withdrawal from the West Bank in the second redeployment, a plan Netanyahu has rejected, Barak replied: "It wouldn't be right for me to interfere with the prime minister in his negotiations. Besides, if I say we should give up 13% and Arafat agrees to accept 12%, it leaves me in an idiotic position."

In Friday's paper: Two years into the Netanyahu era and the opposition is stymied.

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Arab woman evicted from Old City apartment

By ELI WOHLGELER

An Arab woman was forcibly evicted yesterday from an apartment in Jerusalem's Old City that the High Court of Justice had ruled five months ago belongs to a Jewish family.

Neighbors and friends of Esti Arend, under police supervision, spent three hours removing the belongings of Na'ela Zaru, 40, who had been living on the edge of eviction since the court ruling.

"This lady received umpteenth warnings that she has to leave the apartment of her own accord," said Ben Zion Lipshitz, Arend's lawyer. "In February she received her first warning, but nothing was done. We had no choice. We received a permit from the bailiff, and we came to carry out the legal sentence, which was handed down by the High Court."

The dispute is long and tangled, but involved ownership of one apartment in a five-apartment building at 68 Rehov Hasaraya, known as Diskin House, named for original tenant Yehoshua Leib Diskin, founder of the famed orphanage in the 19th century. The building had been totally Jewish, in an area known as the Hebron Quarter, until the Arab riots of 1936. Three of the apartments were restored to Jewish ownership in 1978.

"We lived here five years, until 1992, and then the Arab woman claimed that she had rights to the house," said Arend.

"The court pondered over this question, and then ruled that we had to leave the house. A day after Tisha Be'av we left it, it was a very hard day, a day that we got to cry ourselves over the destruction of Jerusalem... and now it's the day after Jerusalem Day that we're returning. It's unbelievable."

The final ruling by the High



Attorney Ben Zion Lipshitz attaches a mezuzah to the home of his client, Esti Arend, in Jerusalem's Old City yesterday. (Kevin Unger)

Court left Zaru no choice, but she remained until police knocked on her door at 9:15 a.m. and asked her to leave. She refused, which resulted in the emotional scene of her belongings being carried out and put on the street.

"They came into this house by force in 1986, and they took over our apartment," said Kheir Muhdass, a cousin of Zaru's, as he lifted a fancy iron gate off its hinges to be carried away. "Afterward, we went to court, and

we sat here in the apartment six years. Now, they went to court for another judgement - I never heard of such a thing! And now they take over the house according to the court order. They never told us when they were coming; they never told us anything. All of a sudden they came this morning with force - you see here with your own eyes what's happening!"

Piece by piece, Zaru's belongings were carefully carried down the two flights of stairs by kippa-clad teenagers, while Arab neighbors in front of the house yelled at police to stop the eviction. Some bottles and stones were also thrown at the police.

Lipshitz said he understood the personal anguish of throwing a woman out of her apartment, despite his legal right to do so.

"Yes, the fact that you knock on the door, and it has to be done by force - that makes me sad," said Lipshitz, who was given the honor of putting a mezuzah back in the stone doorway's old groove where a one had once been.

"I understand the shock. I've told all the guys here to treat all this stuff as if it were their own, not to touch it. She owes us money, to the bailiffs, but I decided to leave her the TV and the video, even though legally they should be taken to pay the debts."

But if the eviction elicited anger and pity from Zaru's Arab neighbors, it brought no remorse from Arend.

"When we left here, no one worried about us, where we'd sleep," she said, walking around the new/old apartment cradling her ninth child, born a week and a half ago. "We were a family with five children, and we were thrown into the street. No one took pity on us. But a court of law decided this."

"When we had to leave, we left; when they have to leave, they're leaving."

Gingrich avoids press on Jerusalem tour

By MICHAEL YUDELMAN

US House Speaker Newt Gingrich yesterday pledged the United States' friendship to both Israelis and Palestinians, at the end of a day's visit in Jerusalem characterized by disorders and near diplomatic incidents.

"It's up to the two neighbors to negotiate, with the US as a friend and a facilitator. But I don't think we should be a third party. That would be a big mistake," Gingrich said after a meeting with former prime minister Shimon Peres.

Gingrich and Democratic minority leader Dick Gephardt toured the capital with Mayor Ehud Olmert, but were half an hour late for a scheduled helicopter flight with National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon.

Sharon and his assistants had prepared the flight - which was to be kept secret from the media - over the West Bank to show the visitors the dangers of a 13% pullback and Israel's red lines. But when Gingrich's bus arrived, the visitor saw the many reporters and refused to get off the bus.

Ambassador to the US Eilat Ben-El-Mechaieq and Sharon's spokesman apologized to Gingrich and pleaded with him to join Sharon, who blamed the Government Press Office for alerting the media to the tour. In the end, after 15 minutes, Gingrich was persuaded to go after all.

Earlier in the day another misunderstanding marred the visit. The guests, accompanied by Olmert, were on their way to Har Homa when Gingrich spotted a large crowd of journalists waiting for them at the site. This was in violation of the understanding that this stop, too, would not be covered by the media. Gingrich ordered the bus driver to keep driving.

Olmert explained the tour change by the delay caused by Gingrich's visit with President Ezer Weizman, "which resulted in

a delay in Yad Vashem. This left us only 45 minutes, which did not enable stopping anywhere."

Gingrich said "the mayor wanted to show us the city, and you never turn down the mayor. So we toured the city."

Asked why he did not visit the designated site of the American Embassy in Jerusalem, Gingrich explained "We coordinate with the Clinton administration when overseas... and with the advice of the national security adviser, that [the visit at the site] would detract from the purpose of our visit, which is to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Israel, and try to help improve and expand the peace process by meeting with Chairman Arafat."

Gingrich said the US Congress would consider Israel's request for \$1 billion to help offset potential security risks from the transfer of more land to Palestinians. Reuters reported. The media said that during a visit to Washington this month, Netanyahu discussed the need for \$1b. to help pay for bypass roads and other security measures throughout the West Bank in the event of another interim peace deal.

Later Gingrich met with opposition leader MK Ehud Barak, who

presented the Labor Party's position on the peace process.

Barak explained it is the political stalemate which is endangering Israel's security, rather than Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's arguments that progressing with the peace process would be dangerous.

In fact, Barak said, Netanyahu is harming Israel's security interests by freezing the peace process, and bringing it closer to an inevitable explosion.

Barak, accompanied by MKs Ori Orr and Efraim Sneh, noted both the head of military intelligence and Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai have been warning of this danger.

"It's not merely the opposition's stance. As prime minister, I would have been well in the midst of the second pullback by now, as would former prime ministers Menachem Begin, Yitzhak Rabin, and Shimon Peres, without giving up any security interest," he said.

Barak said the issue is not the 12% or 13% of the pullback, but the coordination with the Americans on the final status and their long term military backing in the face of future challenges by Iran and Iraq.

Arafat may refuse to meet with Gingrich

Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat is unlikely to meet US House Speaker Newt Gingrich to protest his support for Israeli sovereignty over all of Jerusalem, a PA official said yesterday. A meeting between Arafat and Gingrich was scheduled for tomorrow. But Arafat will most likely cancel it because Gingrich expressed his support for moving the US Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, said the official.

Gingrich arrived in Israel on Saturday to participate in Jerusalem Day and jubilee celebrations.

The Palestinians have complained that Gingrich and other members of Congress visiting Israel have taken Israel's side on the Jerusalem issue. (AP)

Likud MKs put direct elections bill on hold

By LIAT COLLINS

Discussion on the preliminary reading of a bill to abolish the direct election system is likely to be postponed by another two weeks, following a debate in the Likud faction yesterday.

The bill is being proposed by MKs Uzi Landau (Likud), Yossi Beilin (Labor), and Na'omi Chazan (Meretz).

At the Likud meeting, out of the 12 MKs present, only two - Gideon Ezra and Likud whip Meir Sheerit - opposed changing the system. However, it was decided that Landau should ask to postpone the debate by two weeks because of the absence of the prime minister this week and a trip by Landau next week.

Sheerit said the bill has little chance of passing, because the small parties oppose it.

He also noted that under the coalition agreement, the party must consult with the coalition members over any change to a Basic Law, which includes the so-called Direct Election Law (Basic Law: The Government).

Tourism Minister Moshe Katsav and Communications Minister Limor Livnat said they cannot support Landau's bill in a Knesset vote, because the ministerial committee had determined the government's official stand is against the bill. Katsav said he would ask the ministerial committee to reconsider and Livnat said she would second that.

Science Minister Michael Eitan also said he is in favor of changing the system, because it benefits the small parties at the expense of the larger ones.

Most of the criticism of the direct election

focused on what the Likud MKs said was its failure to stop political blackmailing by small parties and its effect on the Knesset.

MK Ehud Olmert said it had "caused the collapse of the parliamentary system." MK Dan Meridor described it as "crooked."

Michael Yudelman adds: Former prime ministers MK Shimon Peres of Labor and Yitzhak Shamir of the Likud yesterday issued a joint call to the Knesset's 120 members to support the bill to cancel the direct elections for prime minister.

Peres and Shamir are both among the founders of the Association for Parliamentary Democracy, chaired by Moshe Arens, which initiated the legislation to cancel the direct election law. Other association members include MKs Landau, Beilin, and Moshe Gafni (Agudat Yisrael),

Dr. Arik Carmon, and other public figures.

"As those who headed the governments of Israel on both ends of the political spectrum at different times, we feel deep fear for the continuation of Israeli democracy," Peres and Shamir wrote.

Contrary to the promises of the direct election law proponents, the letter says, the law has caused "an inflationary increase in extortion on the part of many parties, reaching absurd proportions which paralyze the possibility of conducting democratic government. At the same time we are witnessing a growing devaluation of the Knesset's power and ability to supervise the government's work."

The results, they wrote, "are an unbridled deterioration in Israel's rule of law and culture of government and an escalation of the social gaps."

Ex-Mossad head Zvi Zamir:

PM should pick intelligence adviser

By STEVE RODAN

Former Mossad chief Zvi Zamir yesterday called on Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to appoint an advisor on intelligence assessments. He said the two crucial areas demanding such independent expertise are Palestinian developments and nonconventional weapons programs in the region.

Zamir, speaking at a Tel Aviv University conference to commemorate the late prime minister Golda Meir, pointed out that the 1974 Agranat Commission recommended that the prime minister appoint an intelligence adviser to give him assessments made independently of the IDF.

"He [the prime minister] must have the means to follow up on information concerning nonconventional weapons systems," Zamir said, "and not base his assessments on one source."

A senior aide to Netanyahu said last night he does not know of any plans to appoint an intelligence adviser. But a source in the Prime Minister's Office said much of the work of coordinating intelligence assessments is already being done by Netanyahu's military aide, Col.

Shimon Shapira.

Currently, the IDF dominates intelligence assessments presented to the cabinet. But, Zamir said, an intelligence adviser could obtain assessments and information on regional nonconventional weapons programs from such sources as the Foreign Ministry or the Mossad.

Regarding the Palestinians, Zamir said, the General Security Service and other government bodies in daily contact with the Palestinian Authority could contribute to assessments presented to the prime minister. The intelligence adviser could also identify to the prime minister the source of the information and assessment - which would allow him to determine the quality of the assessments.

Zamir said an intelligence adviser's job would not be easy. He said the position would anger many in the defense and intelligence community. "It will change the relationship between the prime minister and the defense minister," Zamir said. "There is a problem with the intelligence community. But if we build the system to provide the longest-range vision, the dangers will be fewer."

Eitan calls for unity gov't

By MICHAEL YUDELMAN

Tsomet leader and Agriculture Minister Rafael Eitan yesterday joined The Third Way in calling for a national unity government. Labor leaders said yesterday their party would not join such a government, stating their intention is to topple the government which caused the collapse of the peace process.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu made it clear at a meeting of Likud ministers last week he has no intention of forming a national unity government or of advancing the elections.

But senior sources from both the Likud and Labor said yesterday the option of a unity government appears realistic, if Netanyahu reaches the conclusion that he must

go ahead with the peace process. "We are not interested in a unity government," MK Haim Ramon (Labor) said yesterday. "It's a trick the prime minister pulls out every now and then to threaten the radical right wing. In fact, he rejected the possibility of a unity government every time it has been suggested to him."

He said that several months ago MK Alex Lubotzky (The Third Way) told him "this government, in its present composition and under this prime minister, is incapable of advancing the peace process. It's clear now Netanyahu either doesn't want to, or is unable to advance peace, but The Third Way is still deluding itself." Ramon said Netanyahu rejected The Third Way's request that he meet Labor Party leader Ehud Barak to discuss

the possibility of a unity government six months ago.

Ramon said Netanyahu had fallen into the trap he laid for the Palestinians last November when "he promised the Americans a two-digit second pullback. The Americans adopted his position and pressured the Palestinians, who, to Netanyahu's surprise, accepted it. Netanyahu fears that if he says, 'Yes' to his own proposition, the radical right wing will break up his government."

"Blaming the opposition is a trick, and so is presenting a 13 percent pullback as the destruction of the 'Third Temple,'" Ramon said. "Even Minister Ariel Sharon said the heart of the problem is Netanyahu's commitment from last November, which contradicts the cabinet decision of December."

Mortar round hits Galilee in heavy Lebanon fighting

By DAVID RUDGE

At least one mortar round exploded in the western Galilee last night during heavy exchanges in south Lebanon between the IDF and South Lebanese Army and gunmen firing from north of the security zone.

The IDF Spokesman said that the incident was a flagrant breach of the Grapes of Wrath understandings.

Shortly after the long-range attacks, IAF warplanes struck at Hizbullah targets in the Jabal Soujoud region in the northeastern sector of the security zone.

It was the fourth air strike at terrorist targets in south Lebanon in the space of 24 hours, including one early yesterday in the Jabal Rafiah region, north of the zone.

Hizbullah said that one of its

guerrillas was killed in the raids.

The outbreak of heavy fighting last night was prompted by long-range mortar attacks on IDF positions in the western sector of the zone, during which at least one round exploded in the western Galilee. There were no casualties.

Earlier in the evening, a SLA soldier suffered light-to-moderate wounds in a roadside bomb attack in the Jezzine enclave region, north of the zone.

Reports from the region said that an explosive device was detonated alongside an SLA armored vehicle that was patrolling in the Jezzine area. The wounded soldier was treated in the field and later brought to hospital in Marjayoun in the security zone.

Shortly after the blast, Hizbullah gunmen fired several mortar rounds at an SLA outpost in the Jezzine area. There were no casualties.

Reports from Lebanon said that four civilians were wounded in Mashgara village, in Lebanon's eastern Bekaa valley, north of the zone, yesterday, apparently as a result of SLA shelling. It was not clear whether the heavy firing at IDF posts in the western sector was in response to that incident.

Meanwhile, the As-Safir Lebanese daily reported yesterday that Hizbullah recently used the body of one of its gunmen to lure SLA soldiers into a roadside bomb trap.

The newspaper, quoting Lebanese sources, said Hizbullah had feigned an attempt to extricate the body in the Soujoud area and instead had planted explosives there.

The article said SLA troops then went to find the body of the dead gunman and walked into the trap.

Five hurt in Shuafat brawl

Five people were slightly injured last night in a brawl between two families in the Shuafat refugee camp in northern Jerusalem, police said. The cause of the fight was

unclear, but it resulted in stone-throwing and the torching of cars on both sides of the scuffle. The injured were taken to Mokkased Hospital. Eli Wohlger

Congratulations to Prof. Richard Ebstein

Herzog Hospital on his appointment as Associate Professor at Ben Gurion University

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on the sudden passing of her father

JACOB ELEASARI

Experts: Arrow won't work without sensors

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

The only way the Arrow 2 anti-ballistic missile interceptor will be effective against chemical and biological warheads is if its range is extended, two leading US defense experts said yesterday.

This can only be done by developing remote sensors, particularly satellite-borne sensors, but no improvement to Israel's missile defense is possible as long as the United States adheres to the 1972 ABM Treaty, they said.

"The Arrow 2 is a good system which, if the next attack were to be exactly like the last one, would work quite well. However, the next attack is almost certain not to be like the last one," said Angelo

Codevilla, a professor of international relations at Boston University.

According to Codevilla, the Arrow's speed of about 3 km/sec is too slow to be able to hit faster incoming missiles far enough away to prevent damage—and it is completely worthless if the warheads are chemical or biological, since it would hit them over the target areas.

Codevilla, a well respected author of numerous works on strategy and an expert on the Arrow system, says the best way to deal with faster incoming missiles, like the Russian SS-4, and any non-conventional warhead missile would be to destroy them during their boost-phase, instead

of on their descent as the Arrow 2 is designed to do.

Codevilla told *The Jerusalem Post* that Israel would not be able to extend its range of missile defense until the United States frees up its technology and allows for the development of satellite sensors capable of downloading data in real time.

"Israel cannot defend itself in the future unless the United States provides help," he said, adding that the technology and costs for putting its own sensors in space is beyond Israel alone.

The problem, Codevilla said, is that the US is still bound by the ABM Treaty, which bars the Americans from building a national anti-missile defense.

"Most Americans do not know

that there is no missile defense," said Prof. William Van Cleave, head of the Department of Defense and Strategic Studies at Southwest Missouri State University.

"The Arrow 2 is a good system for the immediate future. But Israel should be trying to persuade the United States to help it adapt the Arrow 2 for future threats," said Van Cleave.

The two experts intend to give this message today at a conference on missile defense in the Knesset. Titled: "Israel's most urgent agenda — Boost-Phase Intercept Missile Defense Against Chemical and Biological Warheads," the conference is also hosting US House Speaker Newt Gingrich.

Organized by the Institute for

Advanced Strategic and Political Studies, it will also include a live satellite presentation by Turkey's Prime Minister Ismet Yilmaz.

Codevilla hopes it is not too late to reverse the time-delay systems being built into satellites so that launches can be relayed to missile-control batteries and interceptor rockets in real time.

Both Codevilla and Van Cleave believe that the Arrow interceptor can outrun its 500km-range Green Pine radar and would not need much modification to extend its range. According to defense officials, the first battery of the Arrow missile should be deployed by 1999. So far the project has cost about \$1.6 billion, with the United States providing about

two-thirds.

According to Codevilla and Van Cleave, Russia has violated the ABM Treaty already by deploying a national defense-system with battle-management control centers.

There is a growing number of people, particularly in the Republican camp, who want to get rid of the treaty. Van Cleave believes that Congress will reject the agreement that Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, and Kazakhstan are the successor states to the Soviet Union and the US will scrap the ABM Treaty.

"The opposition to this are the so-called 'arms control community' and people in the federal bureaucracy in Washington," said Codevilla. "The anti-missile

defense ideology comes from the 1960s and 1970s. This is a hang-over from a quarter century ago.

"It's a matter of time. We are going to get rid of the ABM Treaty. But for Israel it will be a question of whether it will be before it will do any good," Codevilla said.

Channel 1 reported last night, meanwhile, that unless Russian assistance to Iran is halted, Tehran could be expected to have a long-range Shihab missile ready within a year, which would put Israel within striking range.

Codevilla suggested in a television interview that the Arrow may not be able to provide an answer to missiles that are quicker than the Scuds fired by Iraq during the Gulf War.



His own grave at last

Brig.-Gen. (res.) Yehuda Duvdevani, head of the Defense Ministry's Youth, Nahal, and National Missions Branch mourns yesterday at the grave of his father, Capt. Moshe Duvdevani, who died leading Holocaust survivors in the battle for Latrun in 1948. Duvdevani was finally laid to rest yesterday at Jerusalem's Mt. Herzl Military Cemetery after his body and that of another soldier killed in the battle, Pvt. Aharon Tikotzky, were identified last month, when military records revealed they had been buried anonymously in a Tel Aviv cemetery.

(This: Arieh O'Sullivan; photo: Brian Hendler)

Furor over Knesset invitation to 'inciter'

By LIAT COLLINS

It is not yet clear whether a planned panel on the missile threat will take place in the Knesset today, after opposition leaders called on Speaker Dan Tichon not to allow Robert Loewenberg, director of the Institute for Advanced Strategic and Political Studies, to give the lecture. They said he had incited against Yitzhak Rabin and Shimon Peres.

The lecture is scheduled to take place in the Knesset auditorium and be attended by Speaker of the US House of Representatives

Newt Gingrich and a large congressional delegation. It is also meant to include a satellite link-up with Turkish Prime Minister Mesut Yilmaz.

Meretz leader Yossi Sarid said Loewenberg had compared Peres to the Jews who helped the Nazis and described Rabin as using the tactics of a police state.

"It is inconceivable that this wild person will come to the Knesset and even run a debate. We do not intend to allow this," Sarid said. "We will do everything to ensure he cannot speak or lead the discussion. I wouldn't let a person

like this into the country and certainly wouldn't let him in the Knesset and give him a gavel."

Labor leader Ehud Barak also called for Loewenberg to be prevented from visiting the Knesset. "Giving him a permit to enter will shame the Knesset and all of us," Barak said. "It's an embarrassment that no one checked him or took back the invitation once his background was known."

Deputy Defense Minister Silvan Shalom, whose name was connected with the panel, said he did not organize it but is looking into it. He criticized the opposition MKs for

"jumping up and making a fuss" on the basis of a newspaper report, but said if the reports are true he would "reach the right conclusions."

Later Shalom said that he would not participate in the panel discussion. Labor MK Binyamin Ben-Eliezer who was meant to participate, announced he would not attend. Tichon reportedly described the matter as "sensitive."

The primary focus of the Institute for Advanced Strategic and Political Studies, which has offices in Washington and Jerusalem, is analysis and research of Israel's economy

IDF wants to end responsibility for detainees

By STEVE RODAN and MOHAMMED NAJIB

The IDF wants to relinquish its responsibility for Palestinian administrative detainees, Lt.-Col. Yehuda Weinraub yesterday told a conference on punishing terrorists at Tel Aviv University.

He said the IDF wants to transfer the responsibility to the police and Prisons Service. Currently, IDF soldiers guard Palestinian detainees in several prisons.

Weinraub said there are about 110 Palestinian administrative detainees. This is down from the several thousand during the intifada.

Weinraub said the IDF wants to further decrease the number of administrative detainees. "There's a need to redefine what constitutes a crime and what constitutes a terrorist attack," he said.

Meanwhile, Hamas has warned the Palestinian Authority against trying to capture two leaders of its armed factions wanted by Israel. The two are Adel Awadallah and Mohammed Deif, suspected of being behind numerous suicide bombings over the past two years.

In a statement, Hamas accused the PA of torturing members detained in Palestinian jails "for the purpose of extracting information on activities of Hamas to hand it over to the enemy."

Hamas said it plans to "continue the armed struggle against the occupation of Palestine" and the peace process.

In an unrelated development, clashes continued yesterday between the IDF and Palestinians in the West Bank. Near the Arab village of Tekoa, outside Bethlehem, two students were injured by rubber bullets fired by soldiers, according

Palestinian sources. The violence began when the students hurled rocks at an IDF patrol.

Palestinian sources also said Jewish settlers in Hebron attacked Ahmed Abu Salah, 67. The sources said he was taken for treatment in Alia Hospital.

Three families from Tarkumiya petitioned the High Court of Justice against the decision not to prosecute soldiers in the killing of three Palestinian laborers earlier this year when their truck ran a roadblock.

Critics of the IDF decision included the Palestinian Independent Commission for Citizens Rights, which called it "official terrorism."

The commission, in a rare pronouncement, called on the UN and other international bodies to provide protection for Palestinians from Israeli soldiers and armed civilians in the territories.

Thieves pilfer from ancient synagogue

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

Agents working to prevent antiquities thefts caught two Arab men yesterday who are suspected of having stolen artifacts from an ancient synagogue above Hatzor Haglilit, in the Galilee, the Antiquities Authority said.

The two men, brothers from the village of Kafri Maghar, also had 34 other artifacts in their possession, said Osnat Guez, spokeswoman for the authority.

The doopost of the synagogue is richly decorated with grapevines carved into the stone. It was taken, along with columns and carved capitals, from the third-century synagogue in Friam, on a hill near the ancient city of Hatzor.

The authority's Robbery Prevention Unit said there has been a "drastic rise" in pilfering at ancient sites in the Galilee.

Gaza parley nearly canceled by IDF

By STEVE RODAN

A three-day international conference in Gaza on regional agricultural trade and cooperation was nearly scuttled when the IDF refused at first to allow the Israeli delegation to stay overnight in Palestinian Authority territory, organizers said yesterday.

But the IDF reversed its decision at the last minute, and the conference, sponsored by the Israel/Palestine Center for Research and Information and the Konrad Adenauer Foundation, began yesterday on schedule at the Palestine Hotel in Gaza.

The conference is being attended by delegations from Egypt, Israel, Jordan and the PA.

At first, the Israeli delegation, which includes senior officials

from the Agriculture Ministry and other ministries, was not able to obtain permission from the IDF to spend the night in Gaza, despite heavy PA security measures, organizers said. Instead, the delegation proposed that they leave the area after the conference proceedings and return in the morning.

The Egyptian delegation responded that if the Israelis refused to spend the night in Gaza, its representatives would not attend. Negotiations to save the conference went on until nearly midnight Sunday.

"It was a very sensitive issue and until late Sunday it looked like we weren't going to get IDF permission," an organizer said. "In the end, the IDF said okay."

IDF sources said the military has restricted Israeli entry into Gaza

since the PA asked it to do so on the eve of the May 14 massive Palestinian march to mark 50 years since the Arab-Israeli war.

At least five Palestinians were killed in clashes with IDF troops on that day and since then, military sources said, tension remains high in PA areas.

Conference organizers said that despite the current stalemate in the Israeli-Palestinian peace process, the Arab governments approved sending their delegations to the parley.

"With this conference, we want to give a fresh impetus and provide a base for solutions toward cooperation on the agricultural sector in the Middle East," Johannes Gerster, the Adenauer Foundation's representative in Israel, said. "This region can and must become more competitive."

Report: China sells Iran nerve gas component

By DOUGLAS DAVIS

LONDON — Prime Minister Netanyahu's arrival in China at the start of an official visit to China came too late to abort Beijing's sale of banned chemicals to Iran. The sale will give Tehran the ability to make and stockpile huge quantities of advanced nerve gas.

Netanyahu was planning to call on the Chinese to halt sales of equipment and technology that would help Iran develop non-conventional weapons and delivery systems.

But according to the London Sunday Telegraph, the deal was signed earlier this year and was

consummated last month.

Under the deal, Iran has taken delivery of 500 tons of phosphorus pentasulphide, whose sale is prohibited by the Chemical Warfare Treaty, of which Iran is a signatory.

The chemical can ostensibly be used to manufacture pesticides, but it is also a primary component of sophisticated chemical warfare agents, including VX gas.

Unlike other agents, it does not evaporate after use and contaminates large areas for extended periods of time.

Iran has already expressed its appreciation for the consignment by inviting a high-level Chinese

military delegation to visit a number of top-secret Iranian military installations. The deal was negotiated earlier this year by Iran's main military procurement agency, the Defense Industry Organization, and the Tianjin branch of China's SinoChem organization.

The Iranians turned to China when attempts to negotiate a similar deal with India collapsed in 1996 after details were published in the *Sunday Telegraph*.

The Indian deal would have involved the construction of a \$10 million plant capable of producing sophisticated chemical weapons at Qazvin, on the outskirts of Teheran.

HEBREW PRESS REVIEW

By ORLY AHARONI

Writing off peace

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's speech to foreign diplomats, in which he said "peace collapsed two years ago," represents his real intentions not to advance the peace process, despite his subsequent reaffirmation of the Oslo Accords, claims Ma'ariv's Shalom Yerusalmi.

"Left with no choice, he is dancing a tango with himself, one step forward and two steps back, in an attempt to get nowhere."

Ha'aretz's Uzi Ben-Zion states that Netanyahu's statement is equivalent to saying, "you have given me a dead man to take care of and not a patient."

By accusing the Labor Party for the failure of the peace process due to the wave of terrorist attacks two years ago, Netanyahu is doing great injustice, he writes.

Ben-Zion explains that what seemed in the past to be terror attacks by a small minority will end up as a national protest of a frustrated public.

"With unprecedented insolence, the prime minister distorts the reality in the most critical issues of life and death, peace or war."

Yediot Aharanot's Shimon Schiffer reveals that in personal discussions, Netanyahu stressed that the late prime minister Yitzhak Rabin said the Oslo Accords were as full of holes as

Swiss cheese.

Schiffer states that Netanyahu was misunderstood and meant to convey that "for the past two years he has been putting effort into rehabilitating the Oslo agreement from ruins."

Ma'ariv's Yosef Lapid believes that by accusing the Palestinians of the deadlock in the talks, "Netanyahu is preparing an alibi for himself when the peace process collapses."

He adds that Netanyahu is trying to absolve himself from responsibility for the crisis with the Americans and the Palestinians. "He can rub it off all he wants, but the stain is unremovable," Lapid says.

Judges under siege

The tightening of security around two judges, Edna Kaplan and Nira Lidsky, after the former had received threats and a petrol bomb was thrown at the house of the latter, provoked furious responses from the press which warned of the threat to democracy.

"A society in which there are attempts to frighten the judges is a society that disintegrates into madness," writes Shulamit Hareven in *Yediot*.

Ha'aretz's editorial attacks the impotency of the police and expresses hope it is "awakening from its coma." It claims Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani

"focuses his time and energy on bewildered and purposeless political activity, instead of subduing the criminals who spread terror."

Jerusalem Day

"Jerusalem Day is an opportunity to write about what is almost the only issue about which there's a consensus in Israel today: united

Jerusalem as Israel's sovereign capital," writes Ma'ariv's Lapid, in honor of Jerusalem day which was celebrated on Sunday.

Shimon Ben-Hamu in *Ha'aretz* says that it is time to seek solutions to Jerusalem's social and economic problems, which he lists as the increase of the Arab population, hardening and the departure of young people from the city.

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in the presence of Shelley and Arnold Bengis and family

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Robber shot dead by police Bill targets violent spouses through religious court

By DAVID RUDGE

A suspected robber was killed and another wounded in a shoot-out with off-duty police officers in a crowded street in Afula yesterday morning.

The family of the dead man, Hussni Shibli, 24, from Arab al-Shibli, accused the policemen involved of acting rashly.

There were even scuffles between some members of the family and police outside Afula's Ha'emek Hospital, where Shibli died of his wounds.

The police internal affairs department has launched an inquiry into the incident to ascertain whether the off-duty officers may have fired precipitously.

Senior police officers stressed, however, that the policemen acted in self-defense and fired only after one of the suspects pointed a gun at them.

The drama began around 9 a.m. near the First International Bank, when a cashier from a nearby store arrived to deposit takings from

the day before. She was accompanied by a security guard from the store who parked their car close to the bank.

Waiting close by, according to police, were the two robbers on a motorcycle, which they apparently intended to use for a quick getaway.

The woman, who was carrying a bag containing around NIS 70,000 in cash and checks, approached the bank while the security guard was still locking the car.

The suspect on the rear seat of the bike reportedly got off, grabbed the cashier by the throat and pointed a pistol at her head. He snatched the bag and jumped back onto the motorcycle.

The entire incident was witnessed by the off-duty policemen who happened to be passing by.

"By pure coincidence the police car happened to pass by at this stage. The policemen were off-duty and were dressed in civilian clothes," said Ha'amakim district commander Dov Shechter. "Fortunately for us they were

sufficiently alert and were suspicious of the motorcycle even before the robbery occurred, because it did not have license plates. While they were looking at the motorcycle, they witnessed the robbery itself."

Some of the policemen jumped from the car and ran toward the suspects while shouting: "Robbery! Halt! Police!" The suspect on the rear seat of the motorcycle then pointed his pistol at the police officers. According to some reports, the suspect fired at the policemen.

"One of the policemen, who was running toward the motorcycle, pulled out his own gun and fired at the robbers and they drove away," said Shechter.

The policemen gave chase and within 200 meters caught up with the suspects after they fell from the motorcycle, both of them wounded.

The surviving suspect, believed to be a resident of Afula, was being treated for moderate wounds.

Police sources stressed that both suspects had criminal records.

By DAN IZENBERG

The Knesset Law Committee yesterday approved for first reading a private member's bill that would allow religious court judges to make use of an existing law to protect family members from domestic abuse.

MK Yael Dayan (Labor), who submitted the bill with MK Yossi Beilin (Labor), told the committee the bill was meant to provide protection to haredi and Arab women who, because of their culture and customs, currently have no access to protection from violent husbands.

The bill expands the provisions of the Prevention of Domestic Violence Law to

include judges in religious courts. The law currently grants judges in regular courts the right to order preventive measures against violent spouses, including barring them from the home for limited periods of time and forbidding them from carrying firearms.

Rabbi Eli Ben-Dahan, the director-general of the rabbinical courts, said he welcomed the legislation.

"It is true that the bill offers remedy to those who have no other solution, but it also offers remedy to those who do. After all, 95 percent of the cases that come before the rabbinical courts involve secular people," he said.

MK Benny Elon (Moledet) expressed concern that the application of the secular law in the Moslem religious courts could cause problems should it turn out that there is a clash between the provisions of the religious and the secular codes.

Proponents of the law explained that a spouse who failed to get remedy from a religious court could always then turn to the secular court system for help.

Rabbi Menachem Furman, the adviser to the Knesset on Jewish Law, said that religious courts will assume much greater responsibility for protecting spouses from abuse if the bill is passed.

Opposition gains in Lebanon polls

BEIRUT (Reuters) - Opposition groups appear to have made serious gains in Lebanon's first local elections in 35 years, according to Beirut press reports yesterday, based on unofficial results.

State television said Interior Minister Michel Murr would announce the official results of Sunday's elections last night.

Right-wing Christian groups, which oppose the Syrian presence

and its 35,000 troops in Lebanon, swept to victory in some parts of the Mount Lebanon governorate where the first round of elections was held, the press reports said.

Newspapers said the pro-Iranian Hizbullah won in its stronghold in Beirut's southern suburbs - also part of the Mount Lebanon governorate - defeating an alliance of its rival Syrian-backed Shi'ite Amal Movement and candidates backed

by Prime Minister Rafik Hariri. Right-wing Christian opposition groups were reported to have grabbed a significant number of municipal and mayoral seats in the polls, their first entry into the election arena since the end of Lebanon's 1975-1990 sectarian civil war.

The Christian groups boycotted parliamentary elections in 1992 and 1996.

Syria slams Golan housing drive

DAMASCUS (Reuters) - Syria yesterday condemned the campaign to bring more people to live in the Golan Heights, saying Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu was blocking all roads to Middle East peace.

Some 380 homes in 14 settlements in the Golan are to be sold during the campaign.

"While the regional Jewish settlers' council was announcing a new plan to settle more Israelis in the Golan to change its demographic balance, Netanyahu was engaged in making fresh threats and provocations against Arabs," the state-run newspaper *Tishreen* said.

The daily said Netanyahu's remarks stating that he would keep the Golan Heights and other parts of the lands won by Israel in 1967, showed that he did not want peace.

"Netanyahu has blocked the way in advance for any US effort to persuade him to accept agreements and pledges [made by his predecessors]. He came to power to destroy the peace process and he has succeeded in doing so," *Tishreen* said.

The paper said Netanyahu was able to continue his "anti-peace" policies because of what it called the US administration's failure to take firm action against him.

Meanwhile, Syrian President Hafez Assad held talks yesterday with a high-ranking North Korean military delegation.

Migdal Ha'emek man held for threatening mayor

By DAVID RUDGE

Police yesterday arrested a resident of Migdal Ha'emek on suspicion of threatening the life of Mayor MK Shaul Amor.

David Levy was yesterday remanded for five days by the Nazareth Magistrate's Court pending further investigation. Supt. Etile Meirson, spokesman for Ha'amakim district, said the police intend to press charges during the remand period and to request the suspect be held through his trial.

According to the allegations, Levy entered Amor's office and in front of staff there threatened to

kill Amor and Migdal Ha'emek Chief Rabbi David Grossman unless he was given a license to open a business in the town.

Amor said yesterday that the man had also behaved in a violent manner once before - when Amor was first elected mayor 20 years ago.

The mayor, who struggled to put an end to violence in the development town at the time and subsequently, said matters had quieted down until a few days ago.

"Unfortunately, the man has returned to the methods of threats and blackmail," Amor told reporters.



Meshulam's men in court

A follower of cult leader Uzi Meshulam, one of three convicted of vandalizing traffic lights last summer, is seen in Tel Aviv District Court yesterday. The Probation Service recommended that the three - Sinai Hassan, 26, and two others, both minors when the crimes were committed - be sentenced to community service, but the prosecution is demanding a jail sentence for Hassan, who has a previous conviction for attacking policemen.

(Photo: Haim, photo: Israel Sun)

Knesset panel seeks law to help defend immigrants against police

AT THE KNESSET

By DAN IZENBERG

The Knesset Immigration and Absorption Committee yesterday decided to prepare legislation that would broaden the rights of the Justice Ministry department which investigates police conduct. The legislation would allow investigations of all complaints and also increase the jurisdiction of the public defender so it could represent new immigrants without means even on charges carrying a penalty of less than five years.

At a meeting on the complaints

of new immigrants concerning the police, committee chairwoman MK Naomi Blumenthal (Likud) said, "It's absurd that citizens' complaints against a policeman are investigated by the police themselves if the punishment it carries is less than a year in prison."

She spoke of an Ethiopian immigrant who complained that a policeman had used racist epithets and violence against him and was told that he and his wife would be arrested if they try to press charges. She said they were told, "Go file a complaint with the Ethiopian police."

Eran Shendar, from the Justice Ministry's police investigation unit, said only 17 percent of cases

opened against police come to court; 30% are closed for lack of evidence and the rest are closed for lack of jurisdiction and forwarded to the public complaints unit in the police.

Peres: Arafat not bluffing on declaring state

At a discussion on the diplomatic process held by the Labor faction yesterday, Shimon Peres said May 1999 is a critical date. Peres told the MKs what he had said in his meeting with Newt Gingrich, Speaker of the US House of Representatives: If the peace process does not progress, in May 1999 Palestinian Authority

Chairman Yasser Arafat will declare a Palestinian state and Israel will annex the territories.

"This will lead to battle, a true War of Independence," Peres said.

Peres also said that Arafat cannot afford to have an army in the areas under his control because the weapons could be too easily turned against him.

Knesset celebrates Hebrew literature

The Knesset marked 50 years of Hebrew literature yesterday, in advance of Hebrew Book Week, which starts next Wednesday. More than 2 million people are expected to visit the book fair,

according to publishers who visited the House for the event.

Publishers, however, criticized what they said was Finance Ministry's intention to cut budget to local libraries and criticized the Jubilee Association for not budgeting for an event in Book Week.

Committee advances bill on paid sick days

The Knesset Labor and Social Affairs Committee yesterday prepared for second and third reading a bill under which a self-employed person can take paid sick days to treat an ill child in the same way as a salaried employee can. The bill was raised by MK Naomi

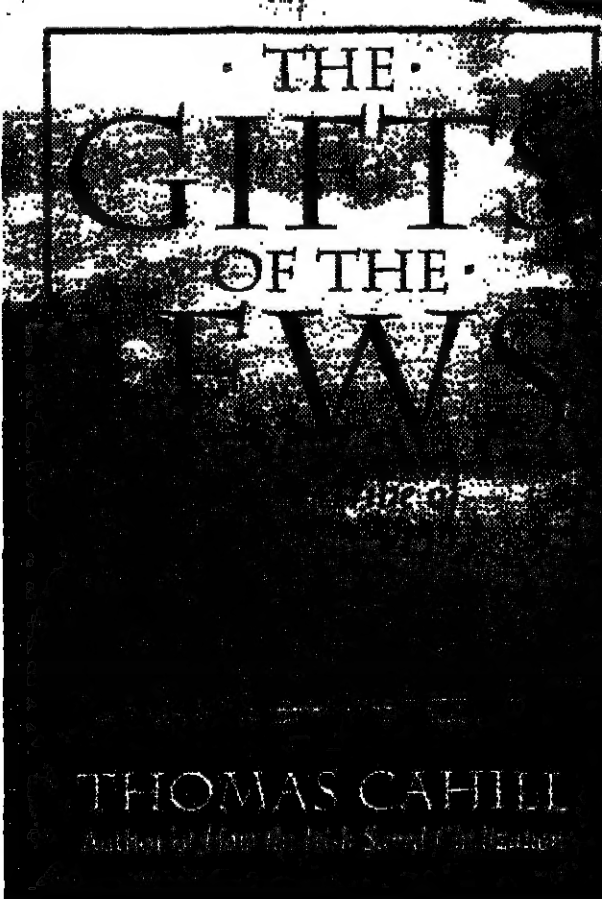
Blumenthal (Likud).

Ministry drops political opinion survey

The Interior Ministry announced yesterday it will not subsidize a public opinion survey ordered by Kiryat Ata Mayor Ya'acov Peretz after critics accused him of conducting it for election purposes. During a meeting of the Knesset State Control Committee yesterday, Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein informed committee chairman Yossi Katz (Labor) that his office would investigate the general practice of conducting state-subsidized public opinion polls.

Dan Izenberg

THE GIFTS OF THE JEWS



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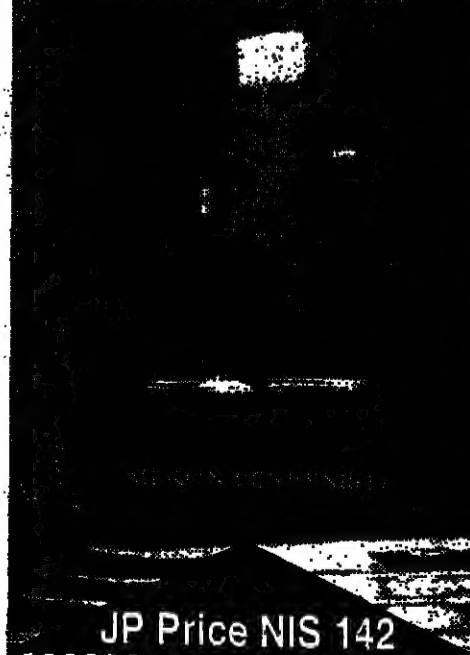
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Handwritten text in Arabic script: "هذا من الاموال"

Report: 120 kg. of victim gold sent to Swiss during Holocaust

By MARILYN HENRY

Some 120 kilograms of gold taken from Holocaust victims in Nazi death camps was sent to Switzerland during the war, an international panel of historians said in Zurich yesterday as it released the first official report on Switzerland's gold trade with the Nazis.

The panel, known as the Bergier Commission, said it had no evidence the Swiss knew of the source of the gold, which was shipped in standard bars after it had been melted down from watches, coins and gold bars looted from Nazi victims.

However, the panel said in its 200-page report, the directors of the Swiss National Bank, the biggest buyer of gold from Nazi Germany, from 1941 were increasingly aware that Jews and other persecuted groups were being robbed, and by 1943 had knowledge of their systematic extermination.

But the bankers made no effort to

ensure they were not getting gold stolen from victims, the panel said.

The 119.5 kilograms of gold was worth \$134,428 at wartime prices, and would be valued at Sfr 1.7 million (\$1.2 million) today. It was part of the victim gold inventory by SS Captain Bruno Melmer, who was in charge of valuables stolen from Nazi victims between 1942 and 1944, the commission said.

Gold objects looted by the Nazis were turned over to the Reichsbank, which sent them to Germany's Degussa smelting firm to be processed into bars, according to Melmer's records. Other recipients included two German commercial banks, Deutsche Bank and Dresdner Bank, and Italian firm Consorzio Esportazioni Aeronautiche.

It was unknown if the dental gold taken from Nazi victims was included in the gold that went to the Reichsbank. "The answer to the question of who subsequently acquired the victim gold that the German Reichsbank sent to its

deposit account at the SNB in Bern remains unknown," the Bergier report said. "The question of whether victim gold was moved to Switzerland via other channels also remains unanswered."

There have been previous assertions that victim gold was mixed in with Nazi loot, but the amounts have been difficult to quantify. Other studies have estimated victim gold at some 600 kilograms.

The historians said they were unable to determine where the gold went from the Swiss central bank.

The Bergier gold report came as the three major Swiss commercial banks were in the midst of talks with the World Jewish Congress and Holocaust survivors and heirs to reach a "global resolution" of class-actions suits that have been filed in the US.

Union Bank of Switzerland, Credit Suisse and Swiss Bank Corporation reportedly were prepared to pay, over 10 years, around Sfr1 billion to settle all claims.

The gold report was only one of several due from the panel, whose members include Israeli historian Saul Friedlander and Sybil Milton, formerly of the US Holocaust Memorial Museum. The commission's next report, on refugees, is not due until the summer.

The Bergier panel, which was appointed by the Swiss government, said there was no indication the SNB was aware of the exact origins of the Nazi gold.

The central banks waited until mid-1943 to ask the Reichsbank for assurances that the Germans were not selling gold looted from the central banks of occupied countries and considered smelting German-bought gold to hide its origin, the historians said.

The Swiss central bank yesterday expressed regret that it "may unwittingly also have acquired gold deriving from victims of concentration camps," but added it saw no need to make more amends for its wartime role.

It said in a statement that it had already donated Sfr 100 million to the humanitarian fund, which was set up to help needy Nazi victims.

The Reichsbank conducted 79 percent of all its wartime gold transfers abroad through Switzerland, of which 87% went through the SNB and 13% through Swiss commercial banks.

The study confirmed preliminary findings, released in December, that Swiss commercial banks bought about 50 tons of Reichsbank gold in 1940 and 1941 worth \$50m. at wartime prices.

In total, the SNB handled between Sfr 1.6b. and Sfr 1.7b. worth of Nazi gold at 1939-1945 prices, of which the SNB bought Sfr 1.2b. for itself.

The Swiss government repeatedly said it would not renegotiate a 1946 treaty, known as the Washington Agreement, under which Switzerland paid the Allies \$250m. in gold to settle claims against its wartime purchases from Germany.

Yad Vashem gets names from Generali archives

By MARILYN HENRY

A delegation from Yad Vashem was in Trieste, Italy, this week to arrange the transfer of names of Nazi victims from the archive of insurer Assicurazioni Generali to Yad Vashem's Hall of Names.

The aim of the meeting is to coordinate the technical aspects of the transfer of previously unrecorded names to Yad Vashem's names repository, Yad Vashem said yesterday in a statement.

"These names are of Jews, insured by different branches of Generali throughout Europe before World War II, and who were almost certainly murdered during the Holocaust."

The Italian insurer, which owns the majority stake in Migdal, has collected in its Trieste warehouse at least 200,000 partial files which

broadly identify insurance policies it sold in Central and Eastern Europe. The policies date from the 1920s to 1945.

Generali is among the dozen of European insurers facing lawsuits in the US for failure to pay claims on Holocaust-era policies. It contends that it is not liable for those claims. Instead, it argues that its Central European subsidiaries, in the successor states to the Hapsburg Empire, were nationalized by post-war communist regimes, and that the governments of those states are thus obliged to honor the policies.

In its statement, Yad Vashem emphasized that the transfer of names from Generali has nothing to do with "Generali's management of policy claims made by Holocaust survivors and their heirs."

'Novelty-seeking' gene found

By JUDY SIEGEL and news agencies

A Jerusalem researcher has shown that newborn babies as young as two weeks are more alert and curious about the outside world if they have a "novelty-seeking" gene called dopamine D-4 receptor and serotonin transporter promoter.

The gene may also be involved in causing adults to seek sensation. Dr. Richard Ebstein, a molecular geneticist at the Herzog Memorial Hospital in Jerusalem and director of its lab, described his study in the May issue of *Molecular Psychiatry*. Testing 81 babies 14 days old, Ebstein placed a red ball, presented a human face and shook a rattle near the infants. He found that those whose blood tests showed they had the DRD4 gene were more likely to follow the ball with their eyes, respond to the face and pay attention to noise from a rattle than other babies who lacked the so-called "novelty-seeking gene."

Ebstein previously reported on the risk-taking gene in adults. He said the babies' response to their sur-

roundings "seems to be based on the same genetic [variation] as in adults. A child who even at two weeks reacts strongly to stimuli seems to be alert, doesn't get scared, doesn't 'freeze' in the crib - that same person at 20 years old is willing to go mountain climbing, biking and drive his car too fast."

Ebstein, who worked with help from the Beersheva Mental Health Center, said early genetic and behavioral tests could be used to detect personality traits and help guide psychological development, as well as drive career choices.

Ebstein found that babies who had the novelty-seeking gene but lacked the so-called "neuroticism gene" - thought by some to affect anxiety and avoidance of harm - showed even more powerful novelty-seeking behavior than other infants.

Prof. James Swanson, a pediatrician at the University of California (at Irvine) Child Development Center was skeptical. "The sample sizes are much too small to be confident of these results," he said, but he conceded Ebstein's theory was nevertheless "plausible."

Israel Festival behind the scenes

By HELEN KAYE

He'd never got such an ovation in his life, said conductor Riccardo Chailly, after the concertgebouw's performance at the Tel Aviv Mann Auditorium on Sunday night.

The famed Dutch orchestra officially opened the Israel Festival at the Jerusalem International Convention Center last night to equally tumultuous applause with the same program, Mendelssohn's 4th Symphony and Mahler's monumental 5th.

The program had to be changed at the last minute, because pianist Maria Josea Pires fell ill and canceled. This, however, is only part of what goes on behind the scenes at the Israel Festival every year, especially with so many foreign companies.

Each visiting group has a minder, a local speaking the company's language who accompanies them everywhere.

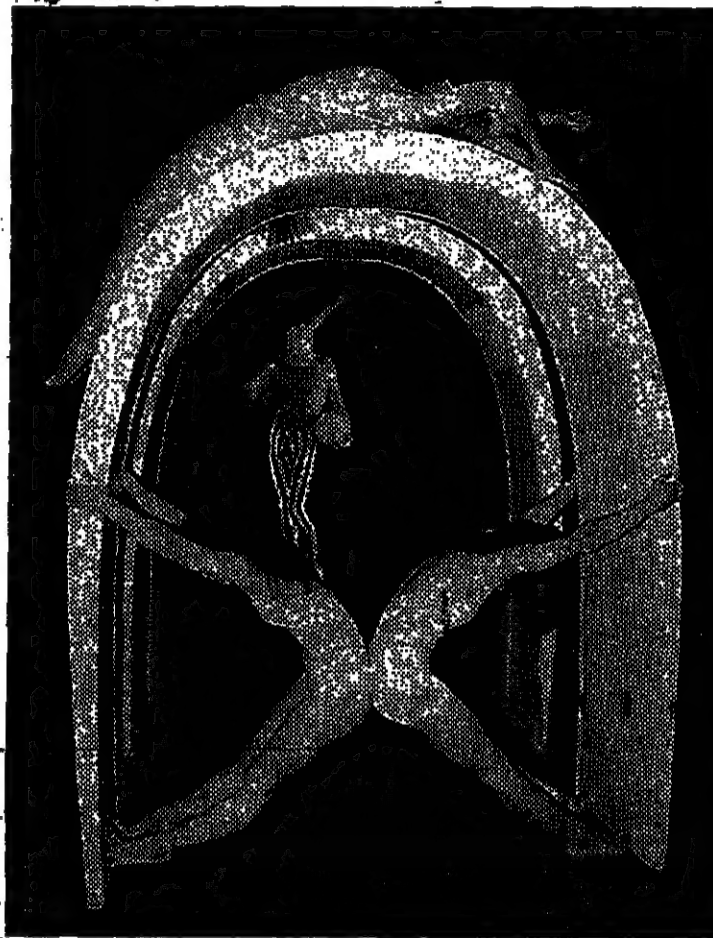
It's still early in the festival, but already the stories and requests are collecting.

Momix, the famed US dance company which opened last night at the Gerard Behar Theater with 'Baseball', has requested that its laundry be washed only in cold water, and not ironed.

At the other end of the scale the Argentinian company, Tango por Dos, has a laundress attached so that each furbelow on the many costumes receives attention.

"It seems that the Israel Festival has nothing but washing on its mind," grumbled one of the organizers.

Momix dancer Brian Simerson, who's mostly inside a huge foam rubber baseball, says he wants to meet singer Ofra Haza. He's been



US dance company Momix opened last night at the Gerard Behar Theater with 'Baseball.'

her fan for more than 10 years and has six of her albums. He likes Rita, Etti Ankri and Ahinoam Nini too.

On the plaza at the Jerusalem Theater, the stages were just going up yesterday for the nightly free shows. They start tonight with a

performance by Meyumana, a new Jerusalem group which makes music on anything that's going.

Tickets are selling briskly. Some 44,000 of the 80,000 available were pre-sold and "they are selling at about 400-500 a day," an official said.

Tomorrow at the Festival

Jerusalem Theater
Sherover - Habibah, The
Dybbuk, 8:30 p.m.
Rebecca Crown - Deux
Mondes, Lestomiv, 9 p.m.
Plaza - Meyumana,

Percussives, 8 p.m. (free)
Foyer - Jazz Club, Deshet
Quartet, Mediterranean Plants,
11:45 p.m. (free)

Gerard Behar - Momix,

Baseball, 4:30 p.m. and 9:15 p.m.

Ministry 'has no plans' to combat violence in hospitals

By JUDY SIEGEL

The Health Ministry has "no plans to do anything at this stage" about the wave of violence in the hospitals because it fears talking about it would only make it worse, acting ministry spokesman Yair Amikam said last night.

But Health Minister Yehoshua

Matza did say that the attacks on physicians are a badge of "shame on Israeli society." Matza, speaking at a Healthy Cities conference in Haifa, expressed his concern about the penetration of violence into the health system.

"Society should give a citation to medical staffers and not act against them violently," he said. But he

added that the latest incidents should not result in hospitals being locked or demands for safety coming at the expense of patients.

In the latest incident, again at Kaplan Hospital in Rehovot, a doctor who was just passing by in the emergency room was punched and his eyeglasses broken by a man whose relative had died. Two weeks

ago, a surgeon was given a broken nose by a patient unwilling to wait in line; more recently, a Geha Hospital psychiatrist was seriously beaten and nearly stabbed with a letter opener by a drug addict who was not admitted to the hospital.

Kaplan doctors observed a reduced Shabbat schedule yesterday to protest the violence.

NEWS

in brief

Man disappears after allegedly raping wife

Police are searching for a Karmiel man who disappeared with his three-year-old daughter after allegedly raping his wife in their home. The wife filed a complaint about the rape yesterday morning, claiming her husband had raped and hit her on Thursday, but that she was afraid to leave the house until yesterday, when her husband left the house with their daughter. By last night, the husband and daughter had not returned.

Police said the man was known to them because the wife had filed complaints of abuse before. Following the first complaint, he had been confined to a relative's home in Acre. Following another complaint, he was forbidden to enter his home for two weeks.

Yesterday's complaint was the wife's third. *Itm*

Winners announced in Jewish identity competition

Yosef Kalmanovitch, 12, of Efrat, Atara Yiffrach, 14, of Sderot, and Tamar Amior, 14, of Kfar Maimon, were among the winners of the International Competition on Jewish Identity, sponsored by Bar-Ilan University and the Ministry of Education, last night.

Other winners included Javier Yashan, 15, of Argentina, and Mikael Yussim, 15, of Uruguay. They beat 79 other religious and secular students, representing 20 countries around the world, who made it to the final round. Each of the five winners won a one-year scholarship for a future year of study at Bar-Ilan University.

Jerusalem Post Staff

Beit Jann workers protest

A group of striking municipal workers from the Beit Jann local council, led by council head Yosef Kablan, set up a protest tent outside the Interior Ministry in Jerusalem yesterday. The workers have been on strike for three weeks because they haven't been paid in three months. The workers said they would remain until their problem is solved.

In a statement, the Interior Ministry said that wages constitute less than half of the amount it transfers to the Beit Jann Local Council each month, and that the council has elected to spend the money on development projects. *Itm*

One year old killed by car

A one-year-old boy was killed yesterday when he was hit by a car in Lod. The boy was taken to Assaf Harofeh Hospital in Tzrifin, but doctors were unable to save him. *Itm*

Clinic for foreign workers opens

Physicians for Human Rights yesterday opened a clinic for foreign workers, many of them here illegally, in south Tel Aviv. It is initially to be open three days a week - one day for workers' children. The organization's physicians and nurses have been caring for foreign workers without pay in an informal way over the past few years, during which they felt the urgent need for a regular clinic.

Employers of legal workers are legally bound to provide them - but not their families - with medical services through a health fund or other provider, but this is not always done, and there is nothing to force employers of illegal workers to do so. *Judy Siegel*

Health inspectors close hotel pool

Two Jacuzzis and the swimming pool at the Zion Square Hotel in Jerusalem have been closed by the Health Ministry because of "unsanitary conditions that endanger public health." Jerusalem district health office inspectors visited the hotel twice and found that the concentration of chlorine in the water was below the minimum and the waters were cloudy. Very large amounts of bacteria which can cause infections of the skin and other organs were found in the women's Jacuzzi. There was no automatic control system for chlorine, no licensed operator for chlorination facilities, and no disinfectant at all in the men's jacuzzi. *Judy Siegel*

Kaveh reelected Bar-Ilan president

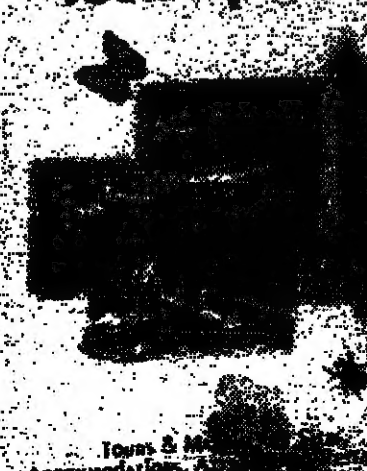
Prof. Moshe Kaveh was reelected yesterday to a second term as president of Bar-Ilan University. In his acceptance address, Kaveh committed himself to turning Bar-Ilan into an international center for Jewish identity studies, through the use of Internet and fiber-optic communications, which will broadcast Jewish heritage classes to all points on the globe. He also announced the receipt of close to \$40 million in donations from university board members for the construction of the first four buildings on Bar-Ilan's major new campus extension. *Jerusalem Post Staff*

50 dunams in Galilee burned in fire

Some 50 dunams of mango trees and natural brush were destroyed in a fire that broke out yesterday afternoon at Kibbutz Hukok, northwest of Tiberias. Kibbutz members, with the help of firefighters and Tiberias police, managed to bring the fire under control before it reached the kibbutz farms and chicken coops. The Fire and Rescue Service noted that many kibbutzim in the area have failed to pave dividing strips that would prevent brush fires from threatening their communities. The cause of the fire was still not known last night. *Itm*

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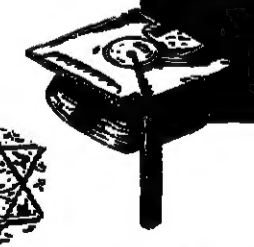
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No man's land

Amid all the international euphoria and downright amazement over the rapid pace of the Irish peace process, some realities seem to have been swept aside, but they'll be back. There is still an international border slicing the northern fifth of Ireland off from the geographical and historical homeland. There is no final treaty on the permanent future of the two states. There are people out there ready to bomb the peace process back to the 16th century – a hijacked bus and two vans laden with bombs were intercepted in Newry on Sunday morning as the referendum "yes" campaigners nursed their celebratory hangovers. What we have in Ireland is history plowing relentlessly onward, like a great ocean supertanker. What has happened is that between Easter weekend and this past weekend, Captain Blair and the officers and crew have agreed to change direction. The same tanker still thunders along on the same heading it has kept set since 1920 – but the compass needle has just been moved. It will be some time before we can see whether the great vessel and its vast cargo of historical baggage will actually change direction in response to the command – or if someone will simply blow up that damn compass. Regardless, it is the actual decision to change the course of Irish history that is history itself.

Goodbye dinosaur

It was a decision made by a remarkable critical mass of new and old leaders: Prime Ministers Tony Blair and Bertie Ahern; Blair's Northern Ireland Minister Mo Mowlam; John Hume, the northern Nationalist leader; David Trimble, the Unionist leader; and Gerry Adams of Sinn Féin. If they can't all share a Nobel Peace prize, my vote goes to David Trimble – the most courageous leader the irreconcilable Unionists of Northern Ireland have ever produced – truly the right man in the right place at the right time. He delivered the unbelievable phenomenon of Unionists and Republicans campaigning, and voting, on the same side for the Belfast Accords. Try to imagine Hamas and the settlers doing it for Oslo.

The argument now rages in Unionist circles over who won the majority in the referendum – the "yes" Unionists or the "no" Unionists. It is an argument that by its mere existence shows that the blinkers worn by the Protestant religious Right remain as large as cartwheels. Hello, guys and gals, 71 percent of Northern Ireland voted "yes" and 94% of the Republic voted "yes," so which part of "yes" don't you understand?

One of the most endearing, little

vignettes of the referendum was when the first results began to roll in, and Rev. Ian Paisley began his inevitable tirade saying it was all a fraud and a sellout, and his rejectionist side won anyway. He was immediately greeted with shouts of "Go home, dinosaur!" – not from Republicans, but from Yes-campaign Unionists. The cackles of laughter that followed the jibe was a new strain of Irish music.

Column One



Thomas O'Dwyer

Giving to get

For all the significance of the cracks in the Unionist camp, the real victory has been the sea-change in the Republican one. Irish republican resistance to foreign rule and its commitment to uniting Ireland by force of arms has for a century been the stuff of Irish legend and a significant part of the definition of Irish pride. No voice can speak more clearly than a 94% referendum for peace and the end of militant republicanism.

Foreigners may find it hard to grasp the extent of the achievement, for what the Irish Republic actually voted for is to remove a clause in the constitution that enshrines a historic Irish claim to the territory of Northern Ireland. Derry and Armagh (in the north) are as Irish to most Irish people as is Hebron to most Israelis. That emotional tie has irrevocably been cut in the interests of peace – 94% all the way.

So what is the thinking of such a definitive percentage of Irish patriots? It is perhaps derived from a biblical injunction: "Give, that ye may receive." The physical border with the north may now fade into thin, thin air. This is the European Union now, and even more than the border between Holland and Belgium, the north-south Irish one may soon be hard to find in a day's drive.

Nobody's place

Irish historian Oliver McDonagh wrote in his book *States of Mind*: "In one sense, the Irish problem has persisted because of the power of geographical images over men's minds." *Irish Times* columnist Fintan O'Toole cited that yesterday and added himself: "Northern Ireland is now a place that is arguably unique – a place that nobody claims and nobody owns, a place that is free to become whatever its people can agree that they want it to be."

"At the same time, the Republic of Ireland has placed its own future in doubt, defining itself as a place that may or may not exist a century from now." For an Ireland that once defined nationalism and successful rebellion in a world fighting imperialism, this would be a revolutionary and profound redefinition of nationalism in a world now mired in ethnic divisions. If so, this is peace process that is light years ahead of any other.

Martin Lee's sweet revenge

A harsh critic of China regained his legislator's seat in post-colonial Hong Kong's first election

By STEPHEN WEEKS and TAN EE LYN

HONG KONG – Martin Lee, a harsh critic of Communist China, was swept back into his seat in the Hong Kong legislature yesterday in the first election under Chinese rule.

The head of the Democratic Party, who was kicked out of the assembly last July 1 when Britain returned the former colony to China, won back his seat in the new 60-seat Legislative Council, according to official results.

Lee, 59, is one of Hong Kong's most severe critics of the Communist leadership in Beijing and is certain to use his new seat as a platform to call for democracy in mainland China.

The slender and articulate lawyer, who speaks with a precise and often barbed tongue, is also a scathing critic of Beijing's appointed leader in Hong Kong, Chief Executive Tung Chee-hwa.

He has accused Tung of being naive about the dangers of the Beijing leadership and of undermining civil liberties in this territory of 6.6 million residents since its return to China.

He lost no time after the official results were announced in criticizing Tung, and making clear he would push for greater democracy in Hong Kong and mainland China.

"Mr. Tung simply has no respect for human rights, the rule of law and democracy," he told reporters. "If we don't exercise our right to vote then we will be turning our back on the 1.2 billion Chinese on the mainland."

Britain yielded Hong Kong to China at midnight on June 30, ending 156 years of colonial rule. The special administrative region of China is to retain its capitalist ways for 50 years under a "one country, two systems" formula.

Lee's Democratic Party won nine of the 20 seats which were directly elected. According to official results, pro-democracy groups will control 14 seats, making them a vocal minority.

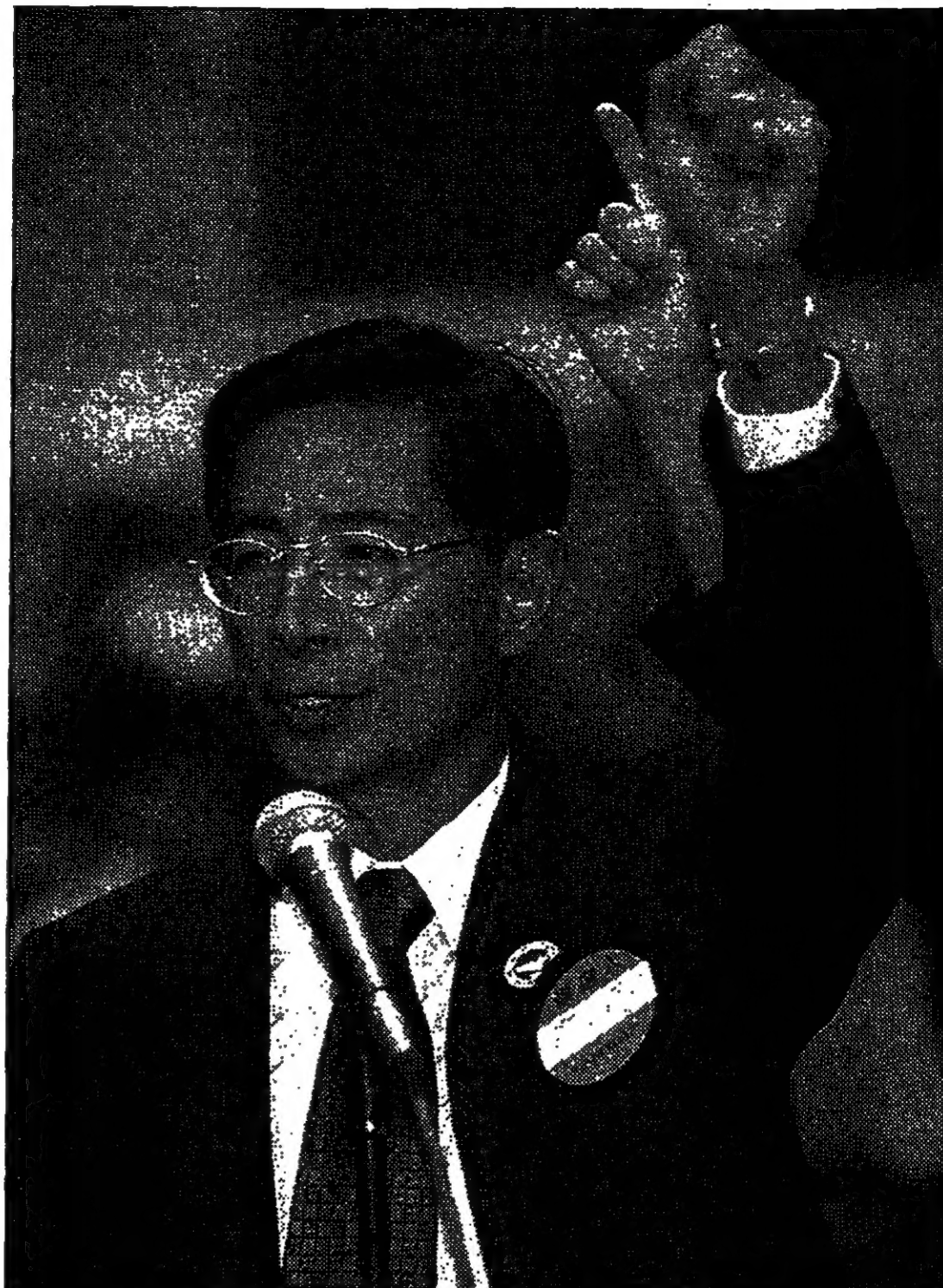
Lee, now de facto leader of Hong Kong's opposition, called quickly for direct elections for all 60 legislative seats and for Tung's chief executive post, in the next election in 2000.

He is certain to lay claim to the moral high ground, and bill himself and other democrats in the legislature as the only truly elected representatives in Hong Kong.

The other 40 seats in the legislature were elected by a small clique of voters drawn from the business and corporate community.

Of those 40 seats, five went to pro-democracy candidates and the remaining 35 went to pro-China politicians in the official results announced yesterday.

Lee's victory, and that of other outspoken pro-democracy advocates such as Emily Lau and Christine Loh, was the sweeter for the heavy voter turnout that swept



Democratic Party leader Martin Lee clinches victory in Hong Kong yesterday. Now de facto leader of Hong Kong's opposition, Lee called for direct elections for all 60 legislative seats as well as for the chief executive post, currently held by Beijing-appointed Tung Chee-hwa. (AP)

them back into their seats.

Lau quickly made clear that Lee would not be alone in trying to use Hong Kong as a platform to call for greater freedom and faster reforms in mainland China.

"We have demonstrated to Hong Kong and to the rest of China, if people are allowed to get the news, what democracy is all about," Lau told reporters.

Beijing booted Lee and the others from the legislature just hours after Britain ceded Hong Kong.

Beijing named a provisional legislature, which quickly passed a voting law to ensure the democratic camp would be a minority after

the election.

Record numbers of voters turned out on Sunday, stumping experts who expected that apathy, a confusing voting system and atrocious weather would keep people at home.

But more than 1.49 million people, 53 percent of registered voters, had cast ballots. That was above the previous record of 920,500 voters, or 35.8%, in the final election under British rule in 1995.

Foreign election experts were shocked by the rules governing the elections, a human rights activist said yesterday.

But the experts applauded the surprisingly high turnout, saying it signaled that the territory of 6.6 million people wanted a faster pace towards democracy, said Paul Harris, chairman of the group Hong Kong Human Rights Monitor.

An international group of independent election experts – from Britain, Canada, France, Italy, the Netherlands, Germany, Sweden, Singapore, Malaysia, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and the United States – included representatives from the US-based National Democratic Institute (NDI).

Hong Kong refused to allow the observers into polling stations, but they watched people entering the stations and spoke with election officials.

In all, the 53.3% of registered voters who cast their votes in the five multi-seat geographical constituencies will return 20 members of the 60-seat chamber, far higher than pollsters had predicted.

Thirty were returned by business and professional groups in so-called "functional constituencies" while 10 were picked by an 800-strong Election Committee, comprising pro-China individuals, businesses and professionals.

Harris said the group found the narrow franchise for 40 of the lawmakers the most "bizarre aspect of the election that you don't find in any other country that has free elections."

"On election practices here, I think they are shocked at the functional constituencies, some of which were so tiny, and the Election Committee," Harris said.

The group was disappointed at being turned away at polling stations. While they did not doubt the fairness and honesty in the way voting procedures were executed, Harris said it gave a wrong idea of Hong Kong.

"Normally countries only refuse foreign observers to enter polling stations when they have got something to hide. We think it's very stupid and gives a wrong impression of Hong Kong to the outside world," Harris said.

But the group applauded the turnout, which showed that Hong Kong people were not apathetic.

Kamal Hossain, former foreign minister of Bangladesh and representing the NDI, said the high turnout was a sign people were "expressing their opinion in favor of more political participation, more broadening of the electorate."

"As public opinion becomes far more vocal on these matters, this is bound to have an impact on accelerating the pace of democratization," Hossain said.

Harris said: "The turnout shows Hong Kong people do care about political issues and they want to make their voices heard."

"If the exit polls are correct, over 60% of people have voted for the parties that have always stood for more democracy," he added.

The Basic Law, Hong Kong's mini-constitution which took effect after last July's handover, states there will be universal suffrage after 2007, but the manner in which it will be attained is not clear.

Pro-democracy parties in Hong Kong have said they want the entire legislature to be publicly elected when the next elections are due in 2000.

They also want the Chief Executive to be publicly elected in 2002, when the current five-year term of leader Tung Chee-hwa ends. (Reuters)



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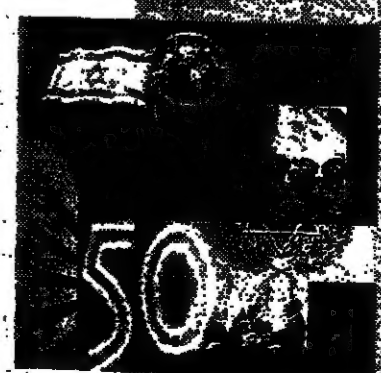


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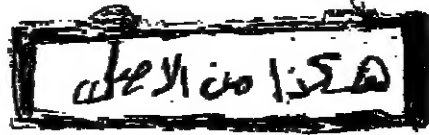
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Indonesia announces sweeping democratic reforms

Dissidents freed, political bans lifted, elections 'as soon as possible'

By BRIAN WILLIAMS

JAKARTA (Reuters) - Indonesia announced yesterday plans for sweeping political reform that included freeing most political prisoners, lifting bans on parties and holding general elections as soon as possible.

Thousands of relatives and supporters gathered outside Jakarta's Cipinang Prison when news spread of the possible imminent release of scores of prisoners in Jakarta and thousands around the country.

They were disappointed and the first two prisoners are expected to be released only today.

But keeping up momentum to convince the world to resume financial aid, new President Jusuf Habibie also outlined in detail the road Indonesia hopes to take in its recovery from the worst economic crisis in three decades.

In other signs of the new wind blowing through the world's fourth most populous nation after the ignominious departure of president Suharto after 32 years in power, moves started to curtail the business empire of his family.

There were also resignations by relatives of Habibie and Armed Forces chief Gen. Wiranto to back their calls for an end to nepotism in government and business.

Habibie, who took over from Suharto just five days ago, gets a reading on how he is doing today when IMF Asia Director Hubert Neiss arrives in Jakarta to resume negotiations on aid.

The International Monetary Fund has delayed disbursement of the next tranche of a \$10 billion balance-of-payments loan, the central plank of a \$41.2 billion rescue package, pending reassessment of the political and economic situation.

Habibie is likely to give Neiss the same speech he gave to the first meeting of his cabinet yesterday.

"We must honestly admit that our success in overcoming the economic crisis depends largely on foreign loans, especially to finance imports of raw material and spare parts," Habibie said.

"Foreign loans are influenced by our success in stabilizing domestic political life."

The 36-member cabinet gave unanimous approval to plans to breathe life into Indonesia's restrictive political system.

"The principle is elections as soon as possible after we prepare the laws," State Secretary and chief government spokesman Akbar Tandjung told reporters after the meeting.

Wiranto, who is also defense minister was present at the meeting and gave his backing to the electoral plan.

Legal experts say the changes and preparations for elections will take time, and polls are unlikely before next year.

In the plan for new elections is a possible new session of the People's Consultative Assembly (MPR) which meets every five years after parliamentary polls to elect a president and vice president.

The 1,000-member MPR includes the 500 members of parliament and military and civilian officials approved by the president.

Only three political parties at present can contest polls and activity is restricted to a few weeks around election time.

"The president has discussed making political activity more free...including allowing anyone in society to form political parties and organiza-

tions," Tandjung said.

Under current laws, general elections are held every five years and are not due until 2002. Suharto's Golkar party has won every election with massive margins since the former army general effectively took power in 1965.

Suharto jailed tens of thousands of people after what he called an attempted communist coup in 1965.

Some are still in prison and Justice Minister Muladi said they are unlikely to be among prisoners to be released.

Asked if all political prisoners other than those jailed for connections to the communist party or on criminal charges would be considered for release, Muladi replied: "Yes."

Two high profile prisoners likely to be released as early as today are Sri Bintang Pamungkas and Mochtar Pakpahan.

Pakpahan, head of the unrecognized Indonesian Labor Welfare Union, is nearing the end of a four-year term for inciting riots.

Sri Bintang, expelled from the opposition Moslem-leaning United Development Party, was jailed for 34 months last year for defaming Suharto during a speech in Germany.

Muladi said the government was also studying the issue of East Timorese who were in prison.

Xanana Gusman, leader of the guerrillas fighting for an end to Indonesian rule in the former Portuguese territory of East Timor is among those in Cipinang, serving a 20-year sentence imposed in 1992.

In another break with the past, Indonesia's state oil company Pertamina will review its contracts with affiliates Pertamina and Permindo, both Suharto family-linked companies.



Prime minister-designate Viktor Orban addressing the media after exit polls indicated his victory late Sunday in Budapest. The 35-year-old Orban is courting potential allies to form a conservative government. (AP)

Hungary rightists sweep to power in stunning win

By MICHAEL RODDY

BUDAPEST (Reuters) - Hungary took a dramatic turn to the right on Sunday as voters swept ex-communists from power and left 35-year-old Viktor Orban poised to become Hungary's youngest prime minister this century.

"Voters have shown that for a new century the country needs a new government," said a jubilant Orban, a former student leader who looked set to form a right-leaning coalition headed by his Fidesz party.

"Our most important task is to form a government quickly," Orban told a television interview. "I would be surprised if a new government is not set up within the next three or four weeks."

Markets were expected to react nervously to the surprising strength of the right-wing victory, which not only brings Fidesz to power but also saw gains for the agrarian Independent Smallholders and far-right Hungarian Justice and Life Party.

"Thank goodness that the economy is quite independent of politics and the private sector accounts for 80 percent to 90 percent of gross domestic product," Zsigmond Jari, chairman of the Budapest stock exchange council, said on state television. "It seems that the economy is progressing on its own track."

Fidesz ran on a platform that called for speeding up economic growth to cut unemployment, cracking down on corruption and a rise in violent crime, and providing free tuition for university students.

Final unofficial results announced by Hungary's National Electoral Committee gave Fidesz the most seats with 148 members in the 386-seat parliament, short of the 194 needed for a governing majority.

Prime Minister Gyula Horn's ex-communist Socialists, who have run Hungary for the past four years, came second with 134 seats, while the right-wing Independent Smallholders got 48 and Fidesz allies the Democratic Forum got 17.

The Socialist liberal Free Democrat coalition partners were all but crushed by the vote, which cut their parliament seats to 24 from 69 and the party's entire governing board resigned.

The far-right Hungarian Justice and Life Party (MIEP), whose members run the gamut from traditional rightists to skinheads, entered parliament for the first time with 14 seats.

The right wing could scarcely contain its glee at the turn of events which ousted the Socialists and the Free Democrats, dismissed by some rightists as "bolsheviks."

Independent Smallholders leader Jozsef Torgyan, a firebrand orator whose party traces its roots back to turn-of-the-century agrarian parties, said he now holds the balance of power.

"Now I can inform you that the Smallholders are the balancing factor," Torgyan told a news conference. "I'd like to confirm our intention that we are willing to form a government with Fidesz, but only if we can carry out our program."

Fidesz has so far not divulged its intentions for coalition partners, saying only that a party congress later this week would discuss the matter. President Arpad Goncz will follow Hungary to call upon the party that got the highest vote to form the new government.

MIEP president Istvan Csurka, a playwright-turned-politician, said the voters, who defied predictions by turning out in greater numbers for the second round than for the first, had sent a message that could not be ignored.

"Parties seem to go for the middle way in forming a coalition but if they do, then they go against the will of the voters," he said.

The Socialists, who have turned the economy around through a drastic austerity program and brought Hungary to the threshold of joining NATO and the European Union, were stunned by their defeat.

EU adopts arms-export conduct code

BRUSSELS (Reuters) - European Union foreign ministers reached a political agreement yesterday on a code of conduct on arms exports for the 15-nation EU designed to give greater weight to morality in the arms trade.

The code, a priority for Britain during its six-month EU presidency, aimed to set common standards governing arms exports from the EU's 15 member states.

"It is a very good first step," French Foreign Minister Hubert Vedrine told reporters.

An EU country which wants to approve an exports license even if it has already been denied by another member state must notify

an ideal solution, we all know that, but it is better than nothing," Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel said.

Under the plan, EU countries will take account of a number of criteria when deciding whether to approve licenses for exports of arms.

For example, EU countries will not give the green light for such exports when there is a clear risk the equipment might be used for internal repression or when it could aggravate civil war.

An EU country which wants to approve an exports license even if it has already been denied by another member state must notify

this to the first country and also provide a justification for its decision if it is taken within a period of three years of the original refusal.

In the end, however, it will be up to the individual EU country whether to go ahead with the exports.

"The adoption of this code marks a qualitatively new stage in the EU's development of a common approach to arms exports as an important element of the [EU's] common foreign and security policy," an EU statement said.

Britain's Labor government has vowed not to sell arms to countries with poor human rights records as part of its "ethical"

foreign policy.

In pushing for the code of conduct, London sought to ensure that if one EU state turns down a weapons contract for ethical reasons, its partners follow suit.

However, cynics have pointed to the fact that the code will be non-binding and question how long the EU's resolve would last if it turned down lucrative arms contracts only to see them being snapped up by US and Russian companies.

Britain and France are respectively the world's number two and three arms exporters, with major markets in the Middle East and Asia.

'Russian' Torah finds home in Maryland

WASHINGTON - A Torah buried in a Russian field for 70 years, protected first from the Bolsheviks and later from the Nazis, has come to the Washington area after being retrieved six years ago and placed on the international market.

Temple Emanuel, a Reform congregation in Kensington, Maryland, acquired the scroll last month through Menahem Yoniss, an Orthodox rabbi in Wheaton, Maryland, who buys and restores used scrolls for synagogues throughout the world.

Despite water damage, the scroll was an excellent candidate for restoration and now looks almost new, Yoniss said.

"I was absolutely overjoyed and thrilled to see this Torah," said Rabbi Warren Stone, who for several years had wanted to replace the temple's deteriorating scroll. "My eyes teared up at its beauty and history. It was a godly event to receive it."

(Washington Post)

Yeltsin: Media moguls worst censors

By TIMOTHY HERITAGE

MOSCOW (Reuters) - President Boris Yeltsin, making a new attack on power-hungry Russian financial groups with vast newspaper and television empires, yesterday accused media moguls of censoring news for their own ends.

A Kremlin spokesman followed Yeltsin's remarks by saying television coverage of Russian miners' protests had gone too far and announced that Yeltsin would meet the heads of three networks on Thursday to discuss cooperation with them.

"The media owners are sometimes the worst censors. They openly interfere in editorial policy, deciding what should or should not be written or said," Yeltsin said in a speech opening a congress of the International Press Institute watchdog group.

"As a result, the people's right to objective and truthful information is in jeopardy," he told Russian and foreign editors gathered in Moscow for the congress.

Yeltsin said the Russian media had taken giant strides toward independence since seven decades of communist censorship ended with the collapse of the Soviet

Union in 1991, and praised journalists' courage, bravery, and defense of human rights.

But he added: "There are some people who still harbor the illusion that journalists must serve the powers-that-be, that the press must be given orders."

Yeltsin's comments were aimed at a few tycoons who have bought stakes in or gained full ownership of many of Russia's major newspapers, magazines, and television and radio channels.

The most powerful media moguls include UNEXIMBANK chief Vladimir Potanin, businessman-turned-politician Boris Berezovsky, Most Group chief Vladimir Gusinsky, Alexander Smolensky of SBS-AgroBank, and Menatep head Mikhail Khodorkovsky.

The government has its own newspapers and controls the second channel RTR. The government also has a majority stake in ORT public television, but its editorial policies are often at odds with the cabinet line.

Yeltsin, who did not name any media in his speech, has repeatedly said he is the guarantor of a free press.

But he is also worried that many of the leading newspapers and

television channels are now in the hands of a few financial groups, giving them a direct channel to ordinary Russians and increasing their hopes of swaying Kremlin and government policy.

Yeltsin is also wary that the media might turn against him and the Kremlin, further reducing his popularity and denting the chances of whoever he wants to be his successor winning the presidential election due in the year 2000.

The support of most media and a group of seven major financiers, including media barons, was vital to Yeltsin's reelection in 1996.

But the Kremlin's grip over the media has slipped since then and the seven financiers' alliance has collapsed.

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Nuclear crisis diverts Pakistan from its problems

By DEXTER FILKINS and JOHN THOR DAHLBURG

RAWALPINDI, Pakistan — Thirty-three years ago, Pakistan's foreign minister vowed that his people would eat grass or leaves — go hungry — to keep up with India if it exploded an atomic bomb. Now, as Pakistan prepares to answer India's nuclear tests of earlier this month, the two nations are poised to enter a new phase of an arms race that has helped make them two of the poorest countries in the world.

Across the subcontinent, the juxtaposition of thermonuclear weapons against vast numbers of people living in conditions of medieval poverty is touching off a debate about the wisdom of developing ultra-sophisticated weapons at the expense of solving intractable social problems.

"This crisis is a diversion from the problems that really all us," said Ifkhar Ahmad, a barrister and a leader of the Pakistan People's Party, the country's main opposition in Parliament. "People can forget about education and health and social services now." The crisis sparked by the five Indian nuclear tests may have altered for a moment the world's image of South Asia: a place of grinding and almost unfathomable poverty.

In India, the blasts proved enormously popular, gathering, according to a *Times of India* poll, the support of 91 percent of the population. Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee, his coalition teetering only weeks before, is now being feted as a national savior.

Yet behind the brief flourish of high-tech prowess, a thousand sad statistics tell a more complex story.

While India produces some of the world's most sought-after scientists and computer engineers, half of the country's 950 million people do not earn enough money to provide for themselves. India's literature is celebrated throughout the world, yet 1 of every 3 men — and 2 of 3 women — cannot read. More than half the homes do not have toilets.

In even the richest neighborhoods of New Delhi, the Indian capital, the government cannot provide regular electricity; entire areas often go for days without power. Diseases such as leprosy, tuberculosis and polio, largely eradicated in most parts of the world, still ravage tens of thousands of people.

Here in Pakistan, the beautiful, rolling hills and modern architecture of Islamabad, the capital, give way to villages where people work in slavish conditions as bonded laborers. The country ranks 160th of 174 countries in world adult literacy. In rural areas, where most Pakistanis live, 87 percent of girls and 75 percent of boys are not enrolled in school. A typical Pakistani earns \$1.25 a day; there is one physician available to treat every 2,037 people.

Statistics like these are at the heart of the emerging arms debate in India and Pakistan. While they still are a minority in each of their countries, groups are questioning the wisdom of an Indo-Pakistani arms race at a time when so many people in both nations lack food, shelter, schooling and medicine.

"Nuclear lavas do not fill empty stomachs," Mahbub al Haq, Pakistan's former finance minister, wrote in a column published Thursday in the *Dawn*, Pakistan's leading newspaper. "Nor have desperately poor nations ever made great superpowers."

In a demonstration last week in New Delhi, crowds carried placards declaring, with bitter sarcasm, "No water, no electricity, no problem — we have the bomb."

When Vajpayee visited the Pokhran test site in the Rajasthan desert Wednesday, demonstrators demanded a hospital for their village. The All-India Women's Democratic Association, with 5.1 million members, dispatched a letter to him, contending the blasts would hamper efforts to improve the lot of India's poor.

The arms race in South Asia is not new, nor is the addition of nuclear weapons to the arsenals of each country likely to outstrip the sums spent on conventional armies and navies. India and Pakistan have fought three wars since 1947 and appear unable to bridge their main difference — the division of Jammu and Kashmir, a region claimed by both nations.

Yet a growing number of critics say the cost of Indo-Pakistani belligerence is diverting public money from health and education and that defense spending has helped cripple the countries' efforts to lift themselves from their desperate condition.

"There is a historical price for our bad relations," said Shaukat Rafi Khan, director of the Sustainable Development Policy Institute in Islamabad. "That is these enormous military bills."

The Indian government, for instance, spends \$3 billion — 3% of its gross domestic product — to keep about 1.3 million men under arms. That is about twice what the nation spends on health and almost as much as it spends on education, reports World Priorities Inc., a nonprofit group in Washington.

IN PAKISTAN, the burden weighs far heavier. Defense spending gobbles up almost 30% of the national budget. Add in the cost of servicing Pakistan's debts — much of which were rung up by the military — and 82% of the nation's budget is off limits. The result? Pakistan spends about twice as much per capita on the military as it does on education, three times as much as it does on health.

The governments' priorities are not lost on its citizens. In Nepal Camp, a 400-family slum in New Delhi, the afternoon air is laden with the smell of animal dung.

Goats and pigs rummage in a garbage pit outside huts of dried mud. The village has two hand pumps and no running water, and the sole source of electricity are illegal hookups to overhead power lines.

"It isn't right," complained Babu Lal, 60, a retired night watchman and the slum's elected chief. "The government would have done better to give us facilities for a decent life instead of blowing up bombs."

Some elected officials in India and Pakistan reject the notion that nuclear weapons — or conventional ones — are depriving their citizens of education and medicine.

"These explosions cost peanuts," said K.R. Malkani, a member of Parliament from the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party, or BJP. "There is no competition between the nuclear program and the social program. Both go on simultaneously."

Some people say defense spending is sucking money away from education and health services. Mahbub al Haq, the former finance minister, said that \$16.4 billion that Pakistan spent on three French submarines in 1995 could have

provided primary education to 12 million Pakistani children and supplied a year's worth of drinking water to 56 million people.

And the \$1.8b. that India spent in 1996 to buy 40 Russian warplanes, the group says, deprived 35 million children of education and 140 million of health care.

"It doesn't take much imagination to see that a country spending 80% of its budget on defense and debt service doesn't have much money left for anything else," said Adeel Malik, a fellow at the center.

In the Rawalpindi neighborhood of Mazharabad, a fiefdom of 9,500 people, few people expect much of the Pakistani government.

About 60 percent of the children don't have schools to go to and only one-quarter of the homes are hooked to sewers.

Even so, many residents say they would be willing to forgo such things to see their country match India's nuclear challenge.

"I don't want war," said Umar Wahid Khan, 45, a shopkeeper and father of two. "But if India shows its power, we have to show ours too." (Los Angeles Times)

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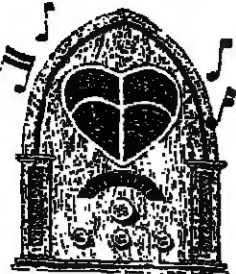
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Lenny Kravitz: A one-man jukebox

In Tune



By David Brinn

Lenny Kravitz goes techno on his new disc 5, (as in, his fifth disc), offering samples and drum tracks to embellish his rock/funk pastiche.

Undoubtedly a gifted musician and arranger, Kravitz has never

5

Lenny Kravitz

(Helicon)

THE BEST OF NICK CAVE & THE BAD SEEDS (NMC)

BLUE WONDER POWER MILK Hooverphonic (NMC)

coalesced into a major artist because he's never developed his own style. When he wants to sound like John Lennon, he does it perfectly - same for Prince, Sly & the Family Stone, and The Stylistics. Kravitz is a one-man jukebox, and despite the window dressing on 5, he keeps repeating the same numbers.

Kravitz has put aside most of his psychedelic retro tendencies in favor of urban hip-hop filtered through his classic rock background.

This disc's Lennon song is "You're My Flavor" with great Beatles harmonies, and "Can We Find a Reason" is the best Prince anthem since "Purple Rain". The rest is mostly faceless funk with heavy guitar providing a counterpoint. When he finds a stone soul

groove, like on "Straight Cold Player," he rides it into the sunset. But too often, he rides the riffs into the ground. Kravitz, who wrote, produced and played virtually every instrument on 5, should perhaps look for outside input next time in order to harness his formidable talents into a workable structure.

THE Best of Nick Cave & The Bad Seeds makes a strong case for those nominating Cave as one of contemporary music's most visionary and striking artists.

"I'm not down here for your money, I'm down here for your soul," he moans in the collection's first track, "Deanna," and in the course of 10 discs over the last 13 years, his aim has always been true.

His morbid Jim Morrison-via-John Cale influence is evident on the earlier tracks (down to the "Riders on the Storm" blustery intro on "Tupelo"). But over the years, Cave's emotional turmoil, whether part of his persona or part of the man, has developed into a sinister originality that ultimately produces rays of light.

Cave's obsessions with religion, death and violence surface throughout the 16 tracks, which, despite not being chronological, still manage to tell a story if you're looking for one. His later work attempts to shovel his way out of the abyss, exposing hope for the future and love of the present.

The music is a hybrid of blues, gospel, post-punk rock and hipster jazz, stirred with a deep, dark wand, out of which can pour surprises like the lilting Irish murder tale "Where the Wild Roses Grow," Cave's well known duet with Kylie Minogue. The sympathetic backing from the constantly evolving Bad Seeds never fails to provide Cave's frightening passion with a solid base.

Cave's music has been described as an embrace of confusion. *The Best of Cave & The Bad Seeds* proves it's time for a wider audience to grab hold.



Lenny Kravitz has never coalesced into a major artist because he's never developed his own style.

VIDEO may have killed the radio star, but Punk was not able to kill the progressive new age pretensions exemplified by Hooverphonic on *Blue Wonder Power Milk*. The Belgian outfit has

obviously listened to too many Yes records. All the elements - ambitious arrangements, lush strings, energetic drum tracks, and crystalline vocals - sound promising on their own, but when put

together, it sounds like background music for the chase scenes in some cheesy detective TV show. Recommended only if you're nostalgic for Joe Mannix and his sidekick Peggy.

Knots of love & hate

DANCE REVIEW

By Dora Shapira

Australian Choreographer Meryl Tankard ties her dancers (metaphorically and otherwise) in knots of love and hate in an hour-long work that takes them on an oscillating emotional roller coaster ride.

She deals with the age old battle of the sexes in a way that magnifies the conflicts. The dances show

FURIOSO

Meryl Tankard Australian Dance Theatre Tel Aviv Performing Arts Center May 19

much overt aggression in male-female relationships, but also touching moments of tenderness and compassion.

Furioso (1993), set to music by Henryk Gorecki, Arvo Part and Elliott Sharp, will be remembered

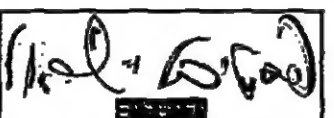
for three scenes. In the stormy scene ten dancers go wild: wave after wave they run across the stage from right to left, jumping and casting themselves horizontally, then, using the momentum, slide in on their bellies like toy planes in an emergency landing.

The second scene is the culmination of a series of "aerial sequences" where four female dancers use ropes to defy gravity, taking hazardous mid-air flights. They flip and turn, gyrate furiously, circle above stage at great speed, like a frenzy of raging sharks baring their teeth.

Although this is all quite a physical ordeal, one can easily sense that the dancers relish every second of it, as if exalting in defying pain and danger. Lead dancer Mia Mason is dark and powerful, vividly wild on and off the ropes.

In the final scene, as the battle is over, the victorious female dancers start scaling the studded iron plates of the back wall - feet first! In the process of shedding traditional roles of gender, the male dancers, already spent, are left behind.

Greece is the word



By MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

She is dubbed the most popular Greek singer of all time. Last summer 200,000 enthusiastic spectators attended her concert in Greece, and she has scores of discs to her credit.

She is 37-year old Eleftheria Arvanitaki, who will make her Israeli debut on Thursday night (8:30) at the Jerusalem International Convention Center as part of the Israel Festival.

The singer says her first name means "freedom" and that she is "well known in Greece. I'm one of several singers who are very popular in my homeland."

Arvanitaki began her career in 1980 and for five years sang with a group that performed "songs from the islands and mountains of Greece. We were very successful but after five years we

decided to disband. In 1986 I began recording solo albums."

Arvanitaki concedes that "I like to sing and I love my roots, the music that comes from my roots. But Western culture is known in Greece today and obviously it influences my music a lot. I try to mix Greek and Western music. What I sing is Greek music of today which is very clearly linked to the past, a link which is very important for the Greeks."

She does not write either the music or the lyrics for what she sings. "I cooperate with great poets and composers; this collaboration is essential for me. And frankly, as I don't think I have the talent to compose and write myself, I prefer it this way."

After many years of singing in her homeland and for Greek communities all over the world, Arvanitaki feels that she is about to make a major shift in her career.

"I'm now starting to get invitations from ethnic music festivals all over the world. You see, in

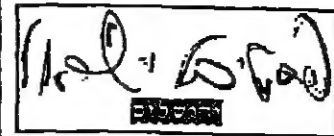


Eleftheria Arvanitaki

Israel Greek music is very well known and beloved, but the average music lover in the rest of the world knows almost nothing about this music."

Arvanitaki cannot easily describe what it is that makes Greek music so magical. "Everybody asks me to describe the sound of the Greek language but I don't know how it sounds. I just know how to speak it. My aim is to come to play in front of as many people as possible and then they will enjoy the music themselves. I'm sorry I cannot explain this better but I sing better than I talk."

Magnificent Mahler



ISRAEL FESTIVAL REVIEW

By MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

The 1998 Israel Festival opened with one of most memorable evenings of classical music-making Israel has seen in a long time. From the opening notes of our national anthem as played by the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, it was

ROYAL CONCERTGEBOUW PLAYS MAHLER Mann Auditorium Tel Aviv, May 24

obvious that this is a large musical body with a very expressive and beautiful sound.

I was not impressed with its rendition of Mendelssohn's Fourth Symphony, which lacked vivacity and joie de vivre. Only in the final movement, the whirling Italian dance, did we actually get to hear some of the splendor of the music and the performers.

Under the baton of music director Riccardo Chailly, everything

was rather impressive but lacking in emotion and finesse. Similarly, the winds showed they are not perfect machines, slipping up on several occasions.

But the glorious sweeping performance of Mahler's Fifth Symphony compensated for the lackluster Mendelssohn. This was a performance that highlighted not the conductor's interpretation but the orchestra and the music. And that an orchestra this big, from the opening solo notes of the trumpet to the glorious horn section, through the warm strings, this Dutch orchestra performed as a cohesive musical entity that enjoys every minute of making music.

Chailly created a glorious orchestral sound in which one can enjoy, individually, a part of a grand whole. We had a glorious Mahler's Fifth Symphony, performed by our own IPO and with great success. But this was quite a different Mahler Fifth.

It was a sweeping performance in which Mahler emerged not as a romantic but as one of the greatest composers of our century. This might not be the only way to perform Mahler after all it does lack the passion and, although the IPO brings it to it - but this is indeed a valid and delightful way to play his music.

At long last the Israel Festival has presented a classical music event of the first degree, an event worthy of the festival.

A ghetto saga

THEATER REVIEW

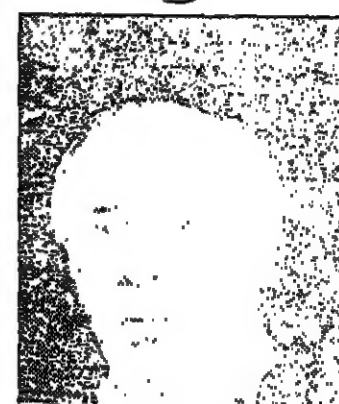
By NAOMI DOUDAI

Ilan Ronen's play *Civil War* at Habimah lately had its fair share of headlines. A prophetic presentation of cultural hostility between the fanatic fringes and the moderate elements of our people, it is based on ancient biblical texts.

Now comes Hillel Mittelpunkt at the Cameri with *The Actor*, a piece that touches on the same topical theme, though written from a very different angle.

The Actor again features the schismatic syndrome that has wracked our people throughout its history and threatens to do so yet again. Here it is enacted against an 18th-century background.

The year is 1757. A small town in Poland is the scene of the sup-



Yossef Carmel in 'The Actor'

blood libel help spread the story over a two-hour stint.

Erotic excerpts such as the secular Shabbat song "Kiss me, Kiss me, Kiss me" and the forbidden and profane duet.

They do little, however, to establish the veracity of the drama and less to drive home its alleged message regarding the relevance of this ghetto saga to today's secular-religious cultural tensions.

But if defective as a play, *The Actor* is immensely significant as a vehicle for actors' talents. Outstanding here is Yossef Carmel. Though one of our most powerful theater artists, it is a long time since he has been seen in a role of such consequence. He's Nathan Mershiak, a veritable Greek Lear, his virtuoso dimensions. His realization of the character is a gem that lends the theme all the eloquence and credibility it deserves.

Supporting Carmel is a strong cast with Liat Glick, poignant and forceful as Rachel, Nathan's daughter, and Hanna Kot as an especially endearing and sophisticated whore. Highly effective too in lesser roles are Shraga Harpaz, Shay Feinberg, Shimon Wilman, Efron Etlan and Ezra Dagan.

Russian space lost in the music

Concert Roundup

This concert had a slight taste of a missed opportunity. It was a supposition of how resplendent Russian music could be rather than an evening of symphonic delights.

The concert was not bad, but it is easier to say what the concert was not.

Russia is a vast country, and although the expression "larger than life" does not exist in its vernacular, the wide sweep, the spaciousness are often characteristic

IPO

The Light Classics Subscription Concert No. 4 Mann Auditorium, May 16

of this land's music. And this is exactly what was lacking in maestro Temirkanov's rendition of the Polovtsian Dances, from the opera *Prince Igor*, by Alexander Borodin.

The *Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini*, by Rachmaninov, was played by the Russian-born pianist Nikolai Demidenko pensively and with dexterity, but the composer's emotional wealth was somehow missing.

In the fragments of the ballet *The Nutcracker*, played after the intermission, there were a few exciting

moments, especially the vivacious Trepak, yet again there was not much of the magic and mystery of Tchaikovsky's spectacular fairy tale. Maxim Reider

THE IPO opened its Subscription Concert No. 8 with an assiduous rendition of the outdated and somewhat ponderous *Symphonic Overture*, by Joseph Kaminski. But now nobody can claim that this

IPO

Works by Kaminsky, Bartok and Tchaikovsky Mann Auditorium, May 13

Israeli orchestra never pays tribute to the Israeli classics.

In Bela Bartok's concerto for viola and orchestra, the Russian violist Yuri Bashmet showcased his incredible virtuosity and the warm sound of his instrument. He was ardent incarnate, but he opted for a very reserved rendition of Bartok's last opus, which literary calls for drama.

Tchaikovsky's symphony *Manfred* did not turn the evening into a feast of feelings. This somewhat delicate opus, rarely performed by the IPO, had its beautiful moments but on the whole, the renowned Russian maestro Yuri Temirkanov, though doing his best on the podium, failed to amalgamate the willful orchestra, and the brasses played defiantly.

Maxim Reider

TO COMMEMORATE the 40th anniversary of the death of

Henrietta Michelson, pianist and pedagogue, two of her disciples - Ora Rotem-Nelken and Nelly Ben-

ETNAHTA SERIES

Henrietta Michelson Commemorative Concert Jerusalem Theater May 18

Or - with violist Amos Boasson and clarinetist Gershon Dembinsky, presented works by Schumann and Kurtag in the Etnahta chamber music series.

Robert Schumann the Romantic and Gyorgy Kurtag the Hungarian contemporary were presumably selected for the sake of contrast, and also because the latter's trio for clarinet, viola and piano is labeled "Homage to R.Sch." There is no immediately perceivable reason for this dedication, though, except for the similar instrument combination of this work and Schumann's *Fairy Tales*. Kurtag, highly individual and certainly more sophisticated than Schumann, nevertheless strikes an unexpected Romantic note in his trio's concluding adagio, after continual surprise-studded turbulence in the preceding movements and in the piano duets, *Games*.

Schumann's *Polonaises* op. 3 for piano duet seem to have been selected for their rarity value. The composer, at 18, still steeped in the musical conventions of his early days, had not yet found the personal style characteristic of his later works. Ury Eppstein

A GROUP of 19-21 year olds - The Jerusalem Quartet (Alexander Pavlovsky, Sergei Bressler, Amihai Gross, Kyril Zlotnikov) - performed a work composed by Mendelssohn at 20. String Quartet No. 1 in the Youth at the Center series.

Their way of actually singing Mendelssohn's heart-rending melodic turns and of letting his fairies dance ethereally in the final fast movement might well have pleased the young composer.

The combination of caressing mellow sound with youthful fresh-

THE JERUSALEM QUARTET

Works by Mozart, Mendelssohn, Weizenberg Youth at the Center series Jerusalem Music Centre May 15

ness, enthusiasm and exuberance is this group's endearing characteristic. Their placing of accents just where one feels they belong, their clear-cut articulation and mutual attentiveness add a touch of maturity not always encountered even in more established ensembles.

The group's contribution to local music was Weizenberg's *Between the Sacred and the Profane*. The repeated performance of the same work by the same artists at the same venue within two weeks was a little too much, even of a good thing. Ury Eppstein

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Judges under threat

Just like any other complex organized body, a democratic society, if it is to continue functioning, needs to have its early-warning systems monitored to watch for indications of potential breakdowns. In recent weeks and days, the equivalent of such red warning-lights have been flashing, as physical threats against judges and other law-enforcement officials in Israel have multiplied.

If a concerted effort is not made now to bring the phenomenon to a halt, the society we live in runs the risk of allowing these threats to grow to the point at which they begin to weaken and undermine the foundations of democracy and the rule of law.

The incidents relating to this phenomenon are disturbing, to say the least. Tel Aviv Judges Nira Lidsky and Edna Kaplan are now under heavy police protection after receiving threats to their lives. Those threats escalated over the past week in Lidsky's case, when a firebomb was thrown at Lidsky's neighbor's home, which is often mistaken for hers. The attack on Lidsky has apparently emboldened others. This weekend, another death threat against a judge was sent by a man who blames Judge Bracha Samson for sentencing his brother to prison.

Senior Prisons Service and police officers are similarly dependent on bodyguards, who keep a lookout for potential attackers and explosives left in their automobiles and homes following the horrid car-bomb assassination of Prisons Service physician Dr. Ya'acov Ziegelboim two weeks ago. It is a continuing embarrassment to the image of the state that bodyguards have for some time accompanied Supreme Court President Aharon Barak's every step, even to academic conferences on Israeli democracy.

What distinguishes a free democracy from both the brutish "state of nature" of Thomas Hobbes and totalitarian dictatorial regimes is the fine balance between civil freedoms and the enforcement of the strictures of the law. The vast majority of citizens peacefully follow the law of their own accord; without a policeman looking over their shoulders every minute. They do so because it is ultimately in their interests to live in such a society. Our freedoms and well-being depend on a set of assumptions and conventions so deeply embedded in our consciousness that they do not often need to be explicitly spelled out. Among these are the presumptions that those who do break the law will face penal-

ties imposed by the courts, and that trials are presided over by impartial judges who will do their utmost to uncover the truth.

Both of these presumptions are endangered when law-enforcement officers and judges are placed under threat. If these threats manage to cause a policeman or judge to even hesitate in fairly meeting out justice, a delicate democratic pillar will have been damaged. Those who believe in achieving their goals by force will gain the upper hand in society. There are already disturbing indications that some violent groups, such as the one led by Uzi Meshulam, are being granted privileges by the police and Prisons Service that others are denied.

An example of a situation which gets out of hand if unchecked – a favorite of spokesmen of the City of New York – relates to smashed windows in slum buildings. If one or two such windows are broken, within a short time all the windows are broken. A slippery-slope towards more severe anti-social behavior then ensues, as those inclined toward such actions become more and more emboldened. Turning back the tide becomes very difficult.

In Israel, it is not cracked windows in abandoned buildings that is the issue, but firebombs thrown through the windows of those charged with upholding the rule of law. It is clear that a serious police effort to crack down on those who threaten law-enforcement officials is required, and immediately.

But strangely for a country which has gone to extraordinary lengths in the long fight against terrorism, using every resource, some of the most basic tools for combating those terrorizing the legal system are lacking. As the state comptroller made clear in his last report, the police lack even a comprehensive mechanism for collecting intelligence information on criminals. The criminals are becoming more organized and efficient, while the police fall behind, their resources spread too thinly. Such a state of affairs is intolerable.

It may sound like a cliché, but there really is a thin blue line of policemen and the judge's bench between us and a breakdown of law and democracy. One need not search too far for examples of countries where criminal and violent elements are above the justice system. The result is not far from that law of the jungle that Hobbes wrote about, where life is both brutish and short.



AT LEAST TODAY I'M
ENJOYING HAVING MY
BACK TO THE WALL

Palestinian threats

U.S. House Speaker Newt Gingrich and Minority Leader Dick Gephardt briefly aroused the ire of the Palestinian leadership last week, before backing down. Top Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat accused them of playing with fire, and said their actions could lead to many deaths – for which, he added, they would be completely responsible.

The heinous offense the congressmen were planning? A visit to a piece of land owned by the US government, situated in the supposedly non-disputed territory inside Israel's pre-1967 borders – and recognized by Congress as the site of a future US embassy to Israel.

In 1995, Congress passed a bill calling for America's embassy to Israel to be moved to Jerusalem by 1999. The US already owned a site for the building, in western Jerusalem – the part slated to remain Israeli even by those who favor dividing the city as part of a peace settlement.

However, the bill allowed the administration to postpone the move indefinitely if it believed it would damage America's interests. President Bill Clinton has used this loophole to delay the start of construction on the site, arguing that it would interfere with the peace talks.

To the Clinton administration, reactions such as Erekat's merely prove their point. The State Department seems never to have bothered to ask itself why the Palestinians should react so strongly – and what this reaction says about the peace process. Yet such questions cry out for answers. In the first place, why should the Palestinians care if the US builds an embassy in western Jerusalem? The Palestinians lay claim to east Jerusalem, but their official position is that they are willing to divide the city, with Israel retaining the part it owned prior to the Six Day War and the Palestinians receiving the part captured from Jordan during that war.

The fact that the Palestinians are unwilling to permit an embassy

even in western Jerusalem seems to indicate that in reality, they do not recognize Israel's claim to sovereignty over any part of the city. Having embassies is one of the defining characteristics of sovereignty; hence the Palestinians oppose their presence.

Why does a US decision to build an embassy in undisputed Israeli territory threaten Palestinian interests to the point where violence is justified?

Yet under the Oslo Accords, the Palestinians officially recognized Israel's right to exist within the pre-1967 borders – which include western Jerusalem. If they meant it, there can be no reason for them to object to the presence of a US embassy anywhere within this territory. And if they did not mean it, what has become of the spirit of the Oslo process?

THERE is also a second question mandated by Erekat's response – which Gingrich himself raised before bowing to Clinton's wishes – and the Palestinian threats – and canceling the visit. Why would a Palestinian threaten bloodshed over a peaceful visit, his spokeswoman demanded last week. Why must Palestinians threaten violence instead of talking matters through? Truly, an excellent question. The Oslo process was made possible by a letter from Yasser Arafat stating that the Palestinians renounced violence against the Jewish state. Its continuation has been predicated on the assumption that the Palestinians would keep this promise. This assumption was badly shaken by the wave of terror which followed the 1993 agree-

ment, and by the Palestinian Authority's open praise of the terrorists' actions.

But the PA could produce excuses, which both the international community and the Israeli Left chose to accept. That the violence was either committed by enemies of the peace process, or was a result of uncontrollable frustration over Israeli foot-dragging in the negotiations.

But what excuse can it claim for Saeb Erekat's threats of violence over this issue?

In what way does a decision by the US to build an embassy in undisputed Israeli territory threaten Palestinian interests to the point where violence is justified? If the Palestinians are so ready to indulge in violence for so little motive, what does that say about their prospects of living with Israel as peaceful neighbors?

A final puzzle is why the US chooses to give in to this kind of terrorism. Surely the location of the US embassy to Israel is a matter to be settled purely between Jerusalem and Washington. Since the site is not on land that they are claiming, what right do the Palestinians have to any say in the matter at all?

The unavoidable conclusion is that the Clinton administration shares the Palestinian view that Israel has no right to sovereignty over any part of Jerusalem. But if so, what has become of the administration's role as an honest broker in the process?

If the US truly wishes to move the process forward, it should politely but firmly point out to the Palestinians that their actions are merely contributing to Israeli fears. Then it should go ahead and build the embassy.

For their part, the Palestinians should finally acknowledge that Israel is a sovereign state, and at the very least has the right to act accordingly in the undisputed half of its capital city. Both would do far more to advance the peace process than pressuring Israel to increase the size of the second redeployment.

Europe's sanctions

SUSAN HATTIS ROLEF

Just over a month ago, the spokesman of the European Commission denied media reports that the European Union had prepared a blacklist of products manufactured in the Jewish settlements in the territories. Since then, increasingly confusing reports have circulated regarding a proposal by the Commission on some form of sanctions.

While it might be true that a blacklist does not exist, it is now clear that some sort of action by the EU on the issue may well be in the offing, though its exact nature is not yet clear.

Is it a threat to boycott all products of Israeli firms operating across the old Green Line and the agricultural produce of the Jordan Valley settlements, or merely not to grant those products the preferential treatment accorded Israeli products under the free trade agreement between the EU and Israel?

What is the goal of this proposal? Is it to put pressure on Israel to stop placing obstacles on the foreign trade of the Palestinian Authority, or to let Israel understand, against the background of the faltering negotiations over a further Israeli withdrawal in the territories, that the EU does not regard any of the settlements in the occupied territories as part of Israel proper, and therefore whatever is produced in them is technically not Israeli merchandise and may not be marketed in Europe as such?

Strangely enough, the answer might be "yes" to all these questions.

While the Commission might really believe that exports to Europe from settlements in the territories (much of which are produced by Palestinian and Thai workers) under "made in Israel" labels, constitute a "massive swindle" on Israel's part, the foreign ministers of the 15 might view this initiative as a good opportunity to express their displeasure with the policies of the Netanyahu government, and at least some of the 15 ambassadors might be concerned about Palestinian foreign trade.

THIS is not the first time the Europeans have used economic sanctions against Israel, with a minimum goal in mind.

On March 9, 1988, the European Parliament in Strasbourg tried to apply pressure on Israel by temporarily refusing to ratify three economic protocols signed between the European Community and Israel. The point was to express displeasure with the way Israel's national unity government was dealing with the intifada and, more specifically, to convince Israel to allow direct exports of Palestinian merchandise from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip to the European Community.

The European pressure was successful in getting Israel to adopt a slightly more liberal policy regarding (Palestinian) exports from the territories. It had no effect whatsoever on Israel's policy regarding the intifada.

Today again, if the EU wants Israel to adopt a more liberal policy regarding Palestinian foreign trade, the threat to boycott or discriminate against Israeli produce from the territories might elicit some sort of positive reaction from Israel, though the current Israeli government doesn't take kindly to threats of any sort.

However, if anyone in Europe believes that the attitude of the Netanyahu government regarding the future of the territories in general or the negotiations regarding a further Israeli withdrawal in the immediate future will be affected by such threats, they are sadly mistaken.

On the contrary, if indeed the European foreign ministers decide to adopt the Commission's proposal, one might expect a government decision to further increase investments in the Jewish economy in the territories – just to spite.

However, one does not really suspect the Eurocrats and the foreign ministers of the EU member states to be as naive as British actress Susanam York, who recently sent in a letter to the editor of the *Sunday Times* on the issue of demands for the release of Mordechai Vanunu. "Growing international support for Vanunu has clearly embarrassed the Israeli government."

The current Israeli government – and especially its head – is neither easily impressed nor easily embarrassed. One must therefore conclude that the Europeans are simply feeling frustrated by their total lack of influence over the peace process, and that the produce from the settlements (nothing to write home about in terms of quantity) is only a scapegoat for these frustrations.

Netanyahu's statement that, "Two years ago the peace collapsed" certainly hasn't lessened the Europeans' frustrations. They have their own opinion as to why the peace process collapsed two years ago, and it isn't Palestinian terror.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FLAG FLYING

Sir, – The peace camp has long contended that its patriotism and love of country is second to none. Therefore it is worth noting that although there were many cars flying the national flag last month (30 percent we were told), and many bearing stickers – only a negligible few of those bearing stickers identifying with the "peace camp" also

flew the Israeli flag. Specifically, in a "sample" of well over a thousand cars seen in Gush Dan, on the road to and in Safed, Tiberias and Jerusalem, – in the 17-day period from Wednesday, April 15, and through Independence Day, Friday May 1 – only nine of those bearing stickers identifying them with Labor (including the sticker

"Shalom Chaver"), flew the national flag – and of those with the green and white sticker identifying them as belonging to the Dor Shalom Doreish Shalom group, only four saw fit to fly our blue and white Israeli banner.

DR. JEANETTE DERSHOWITZ
Herziya Pituh.

WRONG CHARITY

Sir, – The Jerusalem Post (May 12) reported that the Jerusalem Foundation is sponsoring a special performance of the controversial dance piece *Anaphase* by the BatSheva Dance Company as a reaction to the "establishment's" attack on cultural freedom. But are there really limitations to cultural freedom in Israel?

It should be remembered that the

BatSheva Company has often performed this dance – and nobody interfered or asked to stop it. It should also be noted that BatSheva gets \$1.64 million from the public purse each year, (according to 1996 figures), a \$15.30 subsidy for every ticket sold. Not exactly a "lack of support by the establishment."

It is quite hard to understand why the Jerusalem Foundation,

whose aim is to build and beautify our unique Jewish capital, should spend money on this controversial issue.

I doubt if the supporters of the Jerusalem Foundation will appreciate this kind of public activity.

DR. GABRIEL COHN
Jerusalem.

RUGBY'S FUTURE

Sir, – Thank you for the generous coverage of the rugby sevens. Only you wrongly assert (May 22) that Hungary "failed to score a point throughout the tournament." Indeed, your previous day's results correctly credited the Hungarians with two tries and a conversion. The crowd greeted

both tries with a great round of applause for the plucky effort. As for the "positive note" of the "fine win" of Israel over Wales, most of the "Israeli" team seemed to consist of foreign residents, especially UN Fijian soldiers, who also scored most of the points. Rather, it was the zest and

enthusiasm of the numerous Israeli youth teams (appearing before the main event) that truly offered hope for the future of the game here.

MALCOLM LOWE
Jerusalem.

MOVIE REPEATS

Sir, – *Basketball Diaries* is probably the most frequently repeated movie on Israeli television. Hardly a week passes without its being rebroadcast on one or another of the local channels. Programmers must know something this paper's movie critic doesn't because she utterly detested the film when it was first released.

Perhaps a better solution than

the sporadic repeat broadcasts would be to give the film its own channel. Then in addition to the Family, Discovery, Movie, and Children channels we would also have the "Basketball Diaries Channel" which would continuously broadcast only the film, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and nothing else.

This would not only allow the

public to always see exactly what it allegedly wants. It would also enable broadcasters to fulfill one of their highest priorities by ensuring that not a minute passes without showing something of America's bleakest underside.

NACHMAN SPIEGEL
Karmiel.

FROM OUR ARCHIVES

65 years ago: On May 26, 1933, The Palestine Post reported that a number of prominent sheikhs in Transjordan formed a political party to open the country for Jewish settlement, a move strongly opposed by Arabs in Palestine.

50 years ago: On May 26, 1948, The Palestine Post reported

that the Security Council gave the Arab states another 48 hours to impose a cease-fire or risk "strong UN action."

In the US, Dr. Chaim Weizmann met president Truman and demanded an immediate lifting of the arms embargo. The Haifa Port was closed by the British Army

until the withdrawal of all British forces was completed. Arab Legion troops, supported by high explosive shells from their batteries, tried hard to break through the barricaded streets of the Jewish Jerusalem.

Alexander Zivli

05/26/98



Andy Warhol: Orange Marilyn, silkscreen (sold for a staggering \$17.32m. at Sotheby's New York)

Warhol through the roof

AT THE AUCTIONS

A CAPACITY audience at Part One of Sotheby's sale of Contemporary Art in New York on May 14 was electrified when bidding for an Andy Warhol silkscreen painting, *Orange Marilyn*, went up to a staggering \$17.32 million, over four times its estimate and four times the previous auction record for a Warhol, set by another *Marilyn*.

Warhol was famous for saying that (in this hyped world) everyone could be famous for 15 or 20 minutes. His doctored photographs of the famous, silkscreened onto canvas, assistants at his factory, sold marvelously well as Pop icons and made him a rich man, but never in his wildest dreams could he have imagined that someone would fork out over \$17m. for one of them.

In this delirious sale, in which the take for the evening was a record \$35.7m. (way over an estimate of \$25m.) Lucian Freud's famous *Large Interior VII* (After Wateau) set an auction record for Freud at \$5.83m., over double its estimate (all the big buyers were unidentified private collectors). Motherwell, Calder, Damien Hirst, Carl Andre, Hockney, Eva Hesse and Basquiat all sold quite well, the latter pair setting auction records.

Sotheby's take for its week-long series of auctions of 19th century, modernist and contemporary art topped \$160m., well ahead of Christie's take of \$130m., even taking into account that the latter still has a contemporary sale coming up this week. Dealers from abroad complain that Christie's regrouping has spread its season beyond their time and pocket.

Signs of the times: Japanese companies are selling back art, sometimes at a loss. Bonnard's *Piazza del Popolo*, Rome, sold to Japan for \$3.3m. in 1989, went for only \$837,500 at Christie's. At Sotheby's, Impressionists and Moderns offered at around half of



Fernando Botero: 'Picnic', 1983, pastel and graphite on paper (\$80,000-\$80,000 at Sotheby's New York)

what had been paid for them, failed to sell.

BEN AMI'S Tel Aviv auction on May 16 exceeded all expectations when bidders parted with over \$1m. The Israeli art consigned by the national lottery company, Mifal Hapayis, to this sale, raised roughly NIS.1m. for its fund for young artists. Among these items was a 1947 Reuven Rubin fantasy of Jerusalem that soared way over its estimate to go for \$115,000.

Amazingly, a messy, incompetent oil portrait of Ayala Zacks by New Horizons' pioneer Yosef Zaritzky, also went well over its estimate at \$35,000 (prices include the buyer's premium).

An early 1912-13 landscape by pioneer Russian-Jewish painter Robert Falk brought an expected \$23,000, while an abstract Stamaty doubled its estimate at \$20,000. A similar price was paid for an Anna Ticho landscape on paper. An Isidor Kaufmann secular portrait of an elderly gentleman reached its upper estimate at \$20,000. A landscape by the late Berlin-Jewish painter, Lesser Ury, also brought a hoped-for \$26,000.

SOTHEBY'S TEL AVIV May 11, 12 and 13 sales of Israeli memora-

bilia, early crafts and historic photographs, broke new ground and, considering the modest prices of many of the lots, some of them little more than curiosities, did fairly well to raise a total of nearly \$0.5m. The first sale was devoted to early Bezalel items, with a signed carpet from 1906 more than doubling its best estimate at \$16,675, while a filigree Torah finial from 1908-10 brought \$14,950. A less-than-marvelous oil of an oriental Jew by Bezalel founder Boris Schatz surpassed its lower estimate at \$6,900. The set of 20 papercuts of pioneers by Bezalel teacher Meir Gur-Arie, created for a book in 1925, sold for an expected \$20,700.

The following evening, a rather woolly William Wachtel of the Jerusalem Cinematheque site, painted from Mount Zion in 1928, did well at its asked-for \$5,750.

Among the Israeliana, a collection of 57 children's books illustrated by Nahum Gutman brought \$7,360. A collection of Hebrew newspapers published on May 14, 1948 went for \$2,990 while three May 16 papers reporting the establishment of the state (including a copy of *The Palestine Post*) sold for \$978. A Marcel Janco poster for the first New Horizons show sold wonderfully



Micha Kirshner: Abba Eban, color photograph, 1995 (sold at Sotheby's Tel Aviv for \$2,070)



Yosef Zaritzky: Ayala Zacks, oils, 1968 (sold at Ben Ami Tel Aviv for \$35,000)

well at \$5060 and another by Yohanan Simon, *Independence Day 1948*, brought \$3220.

In the 1850-1998 (local) photography sale, only 47 of the 145 lots sold. An edition of 20 prints prepared by the late Nahum Tim Gidal for the arrival of the UNSCOP Committee here in 1947 brought \$23,000. An album of early photographs of Tel Aviv dedicated by the city's first mayor, Meir Dizengoff, to Viscount Milner in 1922, fetched \$11,270. An album from 1868 with 63 photographs, *Album Terra Santa* by Giacomo Brogi, made \$6,670. A color photograph of Abba Eban by Micha Kirshner sold for \$2,070.

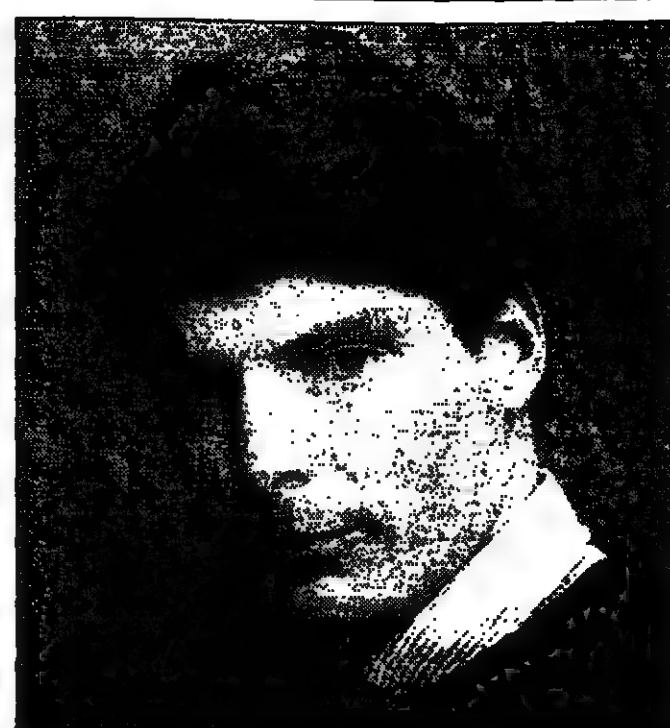
MAJOR PAINTINGS and sculptures by the greatest of Latin American artists are being offered at Sotheby's New York tomorrow and Thursday, with really hefty estimates to match. A harrowing image of an angel, an iconic piece of surrealism by Wilfredo Lam (1902-82), *La Manana Verde*, oil on paper, 1943, has a whopping estimate of \$1.2m.-\$1.8m. An oil of a couple walking their dog by Fernando Botero (b.1932) has an estimate of \$550,000-\$750,000 and a lovely life-size bronze by him of a typically overweight *Venus*, one of six castings, carries an estimate of \$275,000-\$325,000. Also in this sale are several Botero drawings.

Among the past masters are Rufino Tamayo (1889-1991) whose *Acrobats*, 1947, has an esti-

mate of \$500,000-\$700,000, but I'd rather bid for his favorite subject - offered here, *Sliced Watermelons*, 1973, offered at \$150,000-\$200,000. Tamayo's *Cazador de Mariposas* (Butterfly Collector), is a richly colored but eerie semi-geometrical abstraction, a little redolent of Klee (\$350,000-\$450,000).

This sale features an astonishing stylistic variety of paintings and drawings by an even more famous Mexican, the great Diego Rivera (1886-1957), who first went to Europe on a scholarship in 1907. His monumental flat-plane abstracted *Portrait of Madame Lhoté*, 1917, is also in a Cubist mode and in rich color (\$500,000-\$700,000). A Parisian suburban landscape painted by him the following year has elements of both Cubism and Cezanne and is certainly an historical curiosity, but is less well-resolved and less intrinsically interesting (\$400,000-\$600,000). Realist drawings and lithographs by Rivera are also on offer, in a sale of 382 lots ranging from masterpieces to kitsch.

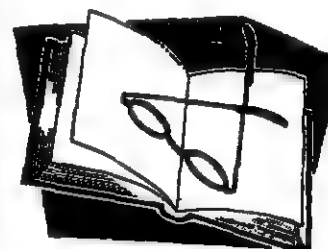
FOLLOWER OF is the most common appellation in the catalog of Sotheby's London sale of European Works of Art and British Paintings and Watercolours this Thursday. If you like 17th-century portraits of the long-forgotten, or want to pass them off as family, there are many items going very cheaply because of lack of firm attributions and market value.



Christopher Reeve has proven that, in many ways, he has transcended previous accomplishments through his courage and character. (AP)

Re-defining Superman

Book Review



By Mary K. Feeny

Still Me, by Christopher Reeve (Random House, \$25, 299 pp.)

If not for a split-second moment on a sunny afternoon in Virginia, Christopher Reeve still might be pursuing the sports-filled leisure life that mirrored his action-packed movie roles.

Still Me takes its title from the words of the actor's wife, Dana.

only fell a few feet, but I shattered my first cervical vertebra as I landed on the top rail of the jump. The second vertebra was also broken, but not so badly. Then I was fighting for air like a drowning person. It's possible that as I twisted my head and fought for air the shards of my first vertebra and the broken part of the second vertebra were cutting and damaging nerves in the spinal cord. I was probably my own worst enemy at that point.

Reeve later applies this same methodical, studied perspective to his medical condition. In his determination to learn everything he can about his injury, he shows he is a fighter, and an educated one at that. (In thanking a doctor for his surgical skill, he says, "I just have to tell you that while I was in rehab I had time to look at anatomy books and read the full discharge report of what you did during

"Now I think a hero is an ordinary individual who finds the strength to persevere and endure in spite of overwhelming obstacles"

"You're still you," she told Reeve shortly after the 1995 equestrian accident that changed his life. "And I love you." (Reeve also has commented on the title's double meaning, reflecting his current physical state.)

In this detailed and well-written autobiography, Reeve proves that, in many ways, he has transcended previous accomplishments through his courage and character.

The book begins with a screenplay idea Reeve had shortly after his near-fatal spinal cord injury. The story is of a bedridden paraplegic whose dreams of sailing become so real that they lift him from his enveloping depression, a fact that heartens his family. One day, he decides he will sail into the middle of the ocean and die alone. But when he thinks about his loving wife and children, he abandons his plan.

Inevitably, Reeve makes the same decision, but there are moments when his certainty wavers.

In the book's opening, Reeve explains the circumstances leading to the accident with his horse, Buck. It was a last-minute decision that brought him to Culpepper, Va.; he had intended to spend that Memorial Day weekend in Vermont.

He unrolls the scene of the fatal jump in cinematic detail: "I

the operation. You performed a miracle." Understandably, Reeve finds it difficult adjusting to a new existence of immobility, and in some cases, incapacity. At first he is frightened by his reliance on breathing machines, and filled with dread at the physical procedures - lung aspiration, bowel-clearing - that intrude on his life.

Still Me also chronicles Reeve's film and theater careers. After the huge success of *Superman* and *Superman II*, he made a little-noticed appearance in *The Remains of the Day*.

His career was slow at the time of his accident, but he was scheduled to appear in Robert Louis Stevenson's *Kidnapped*. It was not to be.

Reeve obviously is sustained by the love of family and also by help he gives others through public appearances and the Christopher Reeve Foundation, which raises money for research. And he is convinced that the possibility of a recovery is real.

Reeve says his definition of a hero has changed. He once thought a hero is someone who commits "a courageous action without considering the consequences." Now, he says, "I think a hero is an ordinary individual who finds the strength to persevere and endure in spite of overwhelming obstacles." (The Hartford Courant)

Japan and Norway scoff at 'Save the whales'

Earthly Concerns



By Dvora Ben Shaul

This month marks the jubilee year of the International Whaling Commission. But at its General Assembly next week in Brussels there isn't likely to be much in the way of celebration. Instead, the commission is facing the most serious decision in its 50-year history, with two member countries, Norway and Japan, at the center of all the trouble.

The commission is faced with the decision of either expelling these countries from the IWC outright, or failing such a drastic move, denying their requests for a substantial increase in whaling permits - a step which, it is believed, will anyway lead to their resignation from the organization.

A few facts about the IWC: It is a voluntary organization, and thus cannot enforce its decisions on non-members. The only reason it has succeeded in limiting whaling and protecting endangered whale species is because member states have adhered voluntarily to the commission's guidelines.

This has, for the most part, worked out quite well - with two notable exceptions, Norway and Japan, both of which have behaved badly ever since the IWC was set up.

In order to get them to join the organization, the IWC had to grant Norway and Japan a concession - a special dispensation allowing them to capture and kill a certain number of the less rare Minke whales, ostensibly for research purposes.

Both nations came in for severe censure from the commission at its annual meeting in July 1995 and again in 1996. Norway, which continued to hunt whales commercially despite a worldwide moratorium, was heavily criticized.

But it was Japan that really bore the brunt of condemnation as a result of what the IWC termed its "flagrant abuse of permits to catch whales for scientific study."



The International Whaling Commission cannot force Japan and Norway to act responsibly. (AP)

The commission said that the research done on the 330 whales Japan caught legally in 1995 and the 382 it trapped in 1996 was "laughably irrelevant." According to one official, the only real research done was to see "how much whale meat they could sell to specialty shops and expensive restaurants."

By law, whale meat that was already frozen in 1986, when the moratorium on whale hunting went into effect, and whale meat from legal catches may be sold on the domestic market, but not exported.

But these stockpiles also came in for criticism: The IWC says that in many cases they were being used to "launder" illegal catches.

Both Japan and Norway have stockpiles of frozen meat. The IWC says illegally caught whale meat is "coming in the back door and going out the front door," either as legal meat from the stockpile or as legal scientific catches.

Japan especially is known to have large stockpiles of frozen whale meat, and is still selling meat from whale species that have not been caught legally, not even for "scientific" purposes, since the

monstrum.

No one can prove how long the meat has been frozen; however, a New Zealand research team has done DNA tests which show that a significant percentage of the meat marketed came not from Minke whales, but from endangered species.

The whale meat trade is highly profitable. Whale meat sells for \$300-450 a kilogram in Japan; a whale meat dinner costs \$100 a plate and up.

The IWC's suspicion that smuggled meat from illegal catches is being used by some countries to supplement their stockpiles became more than just suspicion after 11 tons of illegal whale meat shipped from Korea to Japan were confiscated by customs officials because of inadequate documentation.

The position of the IWC is unenviable. Whatever its decision regarding Norway and Japan, its fears for the organization's future effectiveness are justified, since however it acts now it stands to lose these two troublesome members. And once they are outside the IWC, the organization will have no legal or moral control over their activities.

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Virtual victuals

Some people believe that modern Tel Aviv culture is all style and no substance, all form and no content. Well, a recent phenomenon illustrated their point.

About a month ago, on trendy Sheinkin Street, appeared a new establishment: the "Ca'eloo Cafe" (roughly translated as: "sort of a cafe"). At first, no one paid much attention — after all, in that area new eateries open and close on a regular basis.

From the outside, the place was no different than the neighboring bistros. You had your sleek exterior, your shining china, your groups of beautiful people clustered around tables and chatting, and trendy-looking waiters looking like students. There was a menu packed with gourmet delights, and the waiters were happy to give recommendations: "Try the goose liver sautéed in orange

in, sit down and pretend to eat and drink, at a cost of NIS 10 each. Presumably they were paying the rent on the table and chair that is normally built into a food bill.

Besides being a boon for dieters, the Ca'eloo Cafe, which shut down last week (but will be soon be immortalized in a museum exhibit) was a clear commentary on urban life. In a city like Tel Aviv, after all, food is far from the primary reason people gather in restaurants. The point is to see and be seen by those of your ilk, in the right kind of places. During its short life, the cafe managed to keep its tables full, garner publicity and convince a local restaurant critic to review its "conceptual cuisine."

It even catered an event — a "conceptual wedding" held at the cafe, with the happy couple toasting their union with glasses devoid of wine. "This cup may be empty, but our

Home Front



Allison Kaplan Sommer

'Look - we managed to sell people nothing. If we can do that, we can sell them anything'

sauce, or the smoked salmon," they would tell you.

But there was one big difference between this restaurant and all the rest. When your plates and cups and glasses were carried out and placed before you, they were all... empty. Customers were expected to play along in this unique restaurant, billed as the world's first "Conceptual Cafe."

It turned out that the whole thing was a big design project, a well-known Tel Aviv art school's annual "surprise." All of the staff — the waiters and the "chef" — were third-year design students, dedicated participants in the project. Everything was planned in detail, from the decor to the non-existent items on the menu. The pretend cuisine had to be of the very finest quality. The funny thing is — it worked.

Folks seemed happy to walk

hearts are full of love," they said.

The cafe did fall down on one point: The Tel Aviv rabbinical authorities refused to grant them a *kashrut* certificate — why, it is not clear. Did the make-believe menu actually contain non-kosher items, or was the whole idea just a little too bizarre for the rabbis to digest?

But from every other standpoint, the arty experiment was a roaring success, and will serve its participants well as they head into the tough Israeli marketplace of the '90s.

As one student who worked at the cafe as a waiter put it in a newspaper interview, "It proves that if you do your job well and believe in your product, you will go far. Now we can say to ourselves: Look — we managed to sell people nothing. If we can do that, we can sell them anything."



Pre-take off advice: "The last 24 hours before you go, eat right, sleep right, and don't allow yourself to be in hurry-up mode — throwing things into a suitcase and running to the airport." (Richard T. Nowitz)

The vacation syndrome

Health experts say that the stress associated with planning a trip could make us more susceptible to sicknesses. Mary K. Feeney reports

Only three days before the big vacation. And there you sit, clutching a travel guide in one cold, clammy hand and a jar of Vicks VapoRub in the other. You are on the verge of becoming a sneezing, lung-backing sickbed specimen. And, you believe, you are cursed.

How is it that the body so often ignores the best-laid travel itineraries and decides to break down on the eve of embarkation?

It all boils down to one simple word: stress. You may think you are ready for vacation. You've put in overtime at the office to make up, in advance, for your two-week absence. All the preparations have been made: crazed power-shopping for vacation duds, arranging for doggy care, mail pickup, lawn-mowing and a ride to the airport; making sure the airline connections are right; packing five family suitcases, and paying your bills before heading into the sky.

You're ready. But you are exhausted. And your body knows something unusual is happening, and may decide to get sick.

Health experts say this phenomenon hasn't been studied formally and that there are no hard figures on it. But, "it would logically make sense that people may be more susceptible — they're getting ready, trying to finish up things at work, and they may be sleep-deprived. They're anxious about how things will go on their vacation," says Dr. David Hill, who runs the University of Connecticut Health Center's International Travel Clinic.

Stress can pave the way for respiratory infections, gastrointestinal problems or severe headaches. It also can increase the effects of jet lag during vacation, says Dr. Stuart R. Rose of Travel Medicine Inc. of Northampton, Mass. A plane ride — with cramped seating, interrupted sleep and dehydration — adds to the body's stress, Rose says.

"Then, after arrival in a foreign country, you face still more hassles simply getting to your hotel. No wonder you have jet lag," Rose writes in *The International Travel Health Guide*. When the

body is stressed, the ability to fight off disease is decreased, an idea borne out by the studies of Canadian Hans Selye, the "father of the stress theory."

Selye stressed laboratory rats until their immune systems collapsed and they died. He described stress as the body's response to stressors or events. There is bad stress — divorce, debts, family illness — and good stress — a wedding, an exciting new job, a trip to Tahiti. But good stress (which actually has a name: "eustress") is, nonetheless, stress.

"Usually we don't appreciate how stressful those [happy events] are, we think about how wonderful they are," says Heidi McCloskey, director of the Program for Professionals at the Institute of Living in Hartford, Conn. "We don't take into account what they're doing to our bodies."

When people wear themselves out preparing for a vacation, they are under what doctors call chronic stress.

"It's like playing checkers in downtown traffic," said Dr. Arturo Morales, chief of psychiatry at St. Francis Hospital and Medical Center in Hartford. The body has a dual response: It pumps adrenaline and cortisol, hormones that prepare the body to deal with stress. But cortisol tends to suppress the immune system, increasing susceptibility to illness.

"Reflective people usually know what's going to happen to them," McCloskey says. "If you pay attention to yourself and your cycles, you know what's going to happen to you."

But when you get sick depends on when your system is the most run down. People often do things on vacation that they wouldn't normally do at home: 10-mile walks, horseback riding, getting too much sun. "Some people get sick when they get back," McCloskey says.

Mixing work and vacation also can be stressful. But not for everyone.

"In most cases I would recommend to people that they leave their laptops and their cell

phones at home," McCloskey says. "But there are some people who would be even more stressed by not having the contact than by having it."

Then there are vacationers who don't actually work during vacation, but spend their time in the sun worrying about it.

David McArthur, director of the empowerment division of HeartMath LLC in Boulder Creek, Calif., says "It's the nature of the mind to focus on something and want to wrestle with it until it gets resolved. Maybe they're out on the beach at Waikiki, and what comes to mind is not the color of the water but that they forgot to put something into a memo back home, or 'I wonder if this was done right.'"

"To distract themselves on vacation, people often take one recreational activity after another as if they were at work," McArthur says. One way to handle that is to slow down intentionally, by concentrating on the beauty of the surroundings and the pleasure of the company.

"It's the feelings that changed the mind, it's not the thought," says McArthur, whose work with HeartMath involves teaching people to reduce stress using a system based on the effect of emotions on physiology.

Some people never have pre-holiday stress. They are generally the ones who know how to keep the lid on pressure by planning, managing their time, sleeping and eating well and exercising.

"Again, it's the idea of being reflective and being thoughtful, which sounds so simple but in reality is so complicated," McCloskey says. "I can't tell you how many times I've said, 'I'll never let things pile up again before I go on vacation.'"

One way to avoid that is to get everything done ahead, leaving the day before departure "predominately work-free," McCloskey says. "The last 24 hours before you go, eat right, sleep right, and don't allow yourself to be in hurry-up mode of throwing things into a suitcase and running to the airport."

(The Hartford Courant)

GRAPEVINE

By GREER FAY CASHMAN

U.S. Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich, who called off his visit to the proposed site of the US embassy in Jerusalem to avoid provoking Palestinian unrest, might have gotten away with the visit had he been less forthcoming about his intentions when he addressed the AIPAC convention prior to coming here.

The embassy inauguration was the brainchild of an American-born rabbi, now living here, who suggested to Gingrich that while in Jerusalem he shake up US embassy personnel, visit the site to which the US embassy may eventually transfer, and symbolically lay the cornerstone. Hardhats, shovels and placards were all to have been laid on. Only thing was, the visit was supposed to be hush-hush, with only a handful of Israeli public figures in the know. How could the organizers of the lost photo opportunity and political fait accompli know that Gingrich himself would be the one to let the cat out of the bag?

BUSY Jerusalem city councilwoman Anat Hoffman, speaking to the 'Jerusalem Women's Parliament' in a relaxed question-and-answer meeting at an outdoor coffee shop on the Ben-Yehuda mall, told them how much she appreciated the chance to sit



Anat Hoffman hosted a relaxed Q&A in downtown Jerusalem. (Scoop 80)

FREUDIAN slip or honest opinion? Speaking at the launch of her latest book, *Lili*, author and former journalist Naomi Gal said it was the best book she'd ever read — then quickly corrected it to the best book she'd ever written. On hand, in addition to Keshet publisher Ion Feder and Keshet general manager Yiftah Dekel, was Gal's first publisher, Asher Weill. Others present included fellow author Shifra Horin, TV producer Rivka Friedman, poet Aloma Halter, former Knesset spokeswoman Sara Yitzhaki and photographer Vera Ezion, who



Prosper Azran: Where is he now? (Jasac Hazer)

down and watch the world go by. Hoffman, a Meretz representative, said she couldn't remember when she'd last done that. She'd spent plenty of time on the mall shaking hands during political campaigns — but sitting down for a leisurely discussion was a new experience.

BECAUSE its seventh annual conference almost coincided with Jerusalem Day, Keren Klika chose to hold it in the auditorium of the museum at Ammunition Hill. Looking around at the overflow attendance, moderator Sherwin Pomerantz commented: "Usually we say 'Next year in Jerusalem.' Now we'll have to say, 'Next year in Teddy Stadium.'"

Founded 10 years ago by Delysia Jayson, an immigrant from Great Britain, Keren Klika provides a large basket of voluntary services to facilitate the absorption of new immigrants from the former Soviet Union during their first two years in Israel. Many recipients of Keren Klika aid have told the core workers of the organization — mostly immigrants from English-speaking countries — that when they are better established they too will become volunteers. The sincerity of those pledges became evident at the conference when area coordinator Eleonora Shifria read out the names of 28 volunteers — the oldest 88-year-old Sarah Galt — who are themselves recent immigrants from the Commonwealth of Independent States. Anne Mirkin and Yulia Applebaum, who responded on behalf of the honorees, each noted how much better it was to be in the position of giving rather than receiving.

BROADCASTING Authority director-general Uri Porat, who raised a lot of hackles during his previous stint at the helm of the IBA, seems intent on an encore. In the past week Porat has announced the production of additional episodes of the controversial documentary *Tkuma*, to show Israel in a more "positive" light, and caused female radio and TV celebrities more than a little apprehension by his decision to put veteran male broadcasters in prominent slots currently dominated by women.

Now comes his latest revelation, in an exclusive interview with the Jerusalem weekly *Yerushalayim*: Porat wants to dump the \$80 million Broadcasting City project to be built in and around the old Shaare Zedek hospital. The IBA, which has been working on the concept for over a decade, has already taken out a \$25 million bank loan, of which it has reportedly spent NIS 19m. Porat would rather have the state-owned IBA as part of the planned government complex, with the state responsible for construction and costs. Suitable land, he notes, is still available near the Bank of Israel. Stay tuned.



Uri Porat: raising more hackles

came without her camera to emphasize that she was there as a friend of the guest of honor.

SOCCER star Eli Ohana sent his brother Yossi to accept the plaque on his behalf at the 40th anniversary of the establishment of the State of Israel at the Hebrew University's Givat Ram campus. Together with most of the other Betar Jerusalem team, Ohana was in Hungary to celebrate the wedding of teammate Ivarn Pishon.

Other Hall of Fame honorees represented by relatives included Israeli Olympic team fencer Lydia Cukerman, Hatzuel, Israel Olympic team swimmer Shlomit Toor-Nir and surfer and Olympic medalist Gal Friedman. But rising in person to loud applause were swimmer Dr. Ron Bolotin, who has won eight medals in the Special Olympics; "Mr. Basketball" Ralf Klein; Olympic swimming coach Leonid Kaufman; tennis champion Amos Mansdorf; and swimming coach Yosef Teitel.

ISRAELI fashion and architecture will be seen in many parts of the world thanks to Jeannie Bekker, the host of the widely broadcast Canadian show *Fashion Television*. Bekker, who was last in Israel in 1975, is here with her crew as guest of the Ministry of Tourism and is incorporating the Supreme Court building, the Tel Aviv beachfront and the creations of several Israeli designers into her show.

ALSO on the fashion scene are four Spanish designers — Carmela Rosso, Angel Schlessner, Devota & Lomba and Javier Larrazainzar — who have brought their collections here for a *Moda de Espana* show this evening at the Tel Aviv Fair Grounds by top-ranking Spanish models Ester Kanadas, Laura Ponte and Nieves Alberes. Spanish footwear has long been popular in Israel, and Spanish apparel and jewelry are gaining in local appeal.

AT a reunion of alumni of the Alliance school in Haifa, former classmates of Israel Radio chief Amnon Nadav recalled that he seldom did his homework but always managed to fool his teachers by reading a phantom essay out of the blank pages of his exercise book, making up the text as he went along.

ANYONE wondering what happened to Prosper Azran, former long-serving mayor of Kiryat Shmona? Well, he's now acting as a political and organizational consultant for Performance, a marketing and communications company. He also lectures on central and local authorities and, according to his CV, is an expert on managing a city in time of crisis. Coming from Kiryat Shmona, he should be. No doubt he'll pick up a lot of business this year from aspiring mayors.

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I do want this divorce... don't I?

Dear Ruthie,
For about three years now I have been considering divorce. My husband was against separation and persuaded me to go to couple counseling to save our marriage. Rather than doing that, however, the counseling only helped clarify why I cannot spend the rest of my life married to this man.

Last month I told him there was no point in continuing to see the therapist, and no point in our staying together. After a period of extreme hurt over my decision, my husband announced that we should begin the process of dividing our assets and finding a lawyer.

At first I was relieved that he had come to accept my decision. But over the last few days I have found myself increasingly upset by his matter-of-fact way of dealing with all the technicalities. Then, to my surprise, he told me he thought I was actually justified in wanting the divorce, and that now that he is thinking more clearly, he realizes that we are only making each other miserable.

This realization on his part sounds like just what I wanted. But instead of being happy that ours is not going to be one of those messy divorces and relieved that I no longer have to feel guilty, I find myself in a panic. What if I am making the wrong decision? Maybe I won't be able to manage on my own? Maybe my husband will remarry and I will regret having given him up.

Should I tell him that I want to give it another chance?

Divided over Divorce
Somewhere in Israel

Dear Divorce Divided,
This sounds like a great opportunity for you to learn about the workings of your unconscious. Don't pass it up. Without a good look at yourself here, you will

not be able to make a decision with which you will be at peace.

You are like a child who has begged to be allowed to jump off the high diving board, and finally gets parental permission. Having begun your descent, you suddenly aren't so sure it was a good idea. You fear that the plunge could be too much to bear, or that you might not even remember how to swim.

And you are surprised at how hurt you are that your "parent" is no longer willing to fight to protect you from peril.

This is the moment when you are faced with taking full responsibility for your life — responsibility you have spent the last three years demanding. No wonder you are in a panic. Taking responsibility for decisions and their consequences is just about the hardest thing in life.

You need to examine two main points: whether your desire to get divorced emanated from the fear of taking responsibility for your part in the marriage, and whether your hurt feelings at your husband's sudden acquiescence are the result of your not wanting to take responsibility for having convinced him of your position.

If from this exercise of inner candor you understand that your wavering comes from anger at your husband for not remaining steadfast in his pro-marriage stance — no longer enabling you to "rebel" — then you should proceed with the divorce and all it entails. If, on the other hand, you discover that pulling away from your husband has had more to do with your previous inability to accept your share in the burden of marital responsibility than with your inability to share your life with this particular man — you should give it another shot, this time with a greater understanding of who you are.

Letters should be addressed to: "Dear Ruthie," POB 81, Jerusalem 91000. For E-mail: ruthie@jpost.co.il ("Dear Ruthie" also appears in *In Jerusalem and in City Lights on Fridays*.)

Dear Ruthie



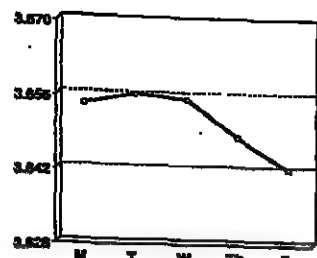
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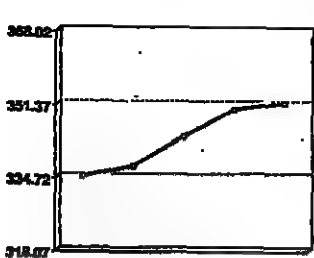
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in brief

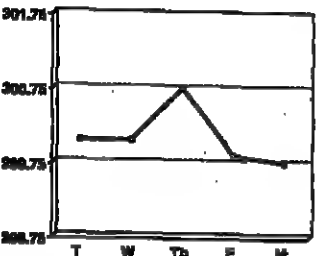
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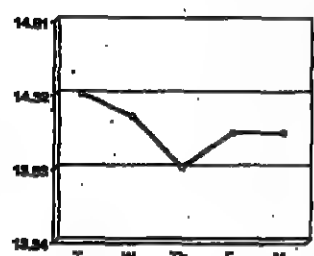
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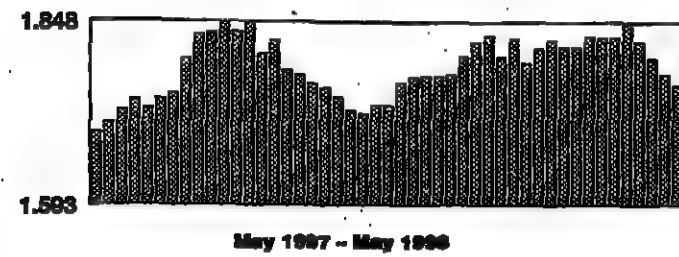
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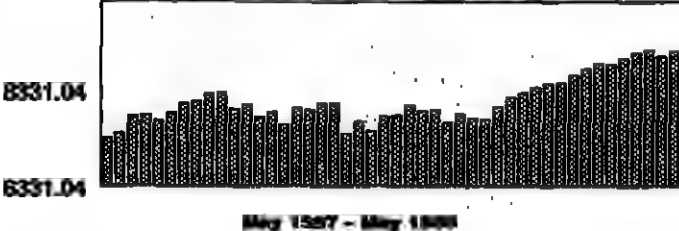
OIL
\$ per barrel of Brent crude



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DOW JONES INDUST. AVG.



Neeman seeks infrastructure plan approval

Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman yesterday asked the Knesset Finance Committee to approve the Treasury's NIS 1 billion infrastructure package aimed at increasing growth and reducing unemployment. The cabinet gave its support to the scheme on May 17. Most of the money would be spent on improving roads, especially between development towns and the center of the country. Meanwhile, the MKs refused to approve some NIS 140-million in budget transfers for a variety of programs. These schemes, some including spending in the territories and others on the haredi community, were the result of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's pledges to coalition parties in exchange for support for the 1998 state budget. The discussion is expected to continue this morning. **David Harris**

Progress in Treasury-Histadrut pension dispute

Treasury and Histadrut representatives yesterday expressed hope that compromise could well be at hand in their long-running argument over public sector pensions. The Treasury has proposed that new pensions no longer be paid directly from the state budget, but rather through employer contributions. National Labor Court President Steve Adler yesterday chaired a hearing between the parties and suggested a way forward, which both sides have agreed to consider. Neither was prepared to reveal the contents of the meeting, but confirmed they will meet again this afternoon. **David Harris**

EU ministers delay trade debate

The European Union's Council of Ministers postponed a debate scheduled for yesterday on trade links with Israel. It is still unclear if the discussion will take place at the next meeting of ministers on June 8. A fortnight ago the EU published a paper calling on Israel to cease selling goods from settlements in the territories with a "Made in Israel" label. The Union maintains that, under international law, Israel has no right to sell these goods duty free under its trade agreement with Europe. **David Harris**

Israel, Peru to launch free-trade talks

Industry and Trade Minister Nathan Sharansky and his Peruvian counterpart, Gustavo Caillaux, agreed to launch negotiations on a free trade agreement during talks Sunday. During his visit here, Caillaux asked to learn more about the activities of the Small Business Authority and the technological incubator program, and Sharansky said he would be glad to help Peru develop similar programs. In 1997, bilateral trade totaled \$37 million, \$31m. of that Israeli exports. In the first quarter of the year, exports rose 71.5%, totaling \$13m. **Nina Gilbert**

Textile, leather exports up

Textile and leather exports rose 8.5% in the first quarter of the year, totaling \$263 million, the Manufacturers Association said yesterday. Association textile branch chairman Yair Rodlevy said the present trend began in the fourth quarter of 1997, and the industry is continuing to become more efficient, noting that output per work hour has grown by 4%. Undergarment exports rose 34% in the first quarter, bathing suit exports rose 26%, and socks by 9%. **Nina Gilbert**



MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR

Change of Address and Voting: Warning

The public is hereby informed that the following is considered an offense according to the Local Elections Law:

1. Falsely informing the Population Registry that one has moved to a different town, as a result of which the person's name is registered in the voters roll of that town.
2. Voting in that town in the following elections, after so changing one's address.

The punishment for this offense is three years imprisonment.

Vote Legally - Avoid Unpleasantness

Bezeq net down 13%, UMB falls 27%

Bezeq's first-quarter profits dropped 13.4% to NIS 128.9 million in the first quarter of the year compared with the same period last year, mostly due to a drop in income from international phone services.

Revenues were down 4.6% to NIS 2.15 billion, compared with NIS 2.26b. a year earlier.

In presenting the results, Bezeq chairman Izzy Tapoohi and CEO Ami Erel noted that the drop in profit from international phone calls, due to the opening of the sector to competition in the second

half of 1997, was only partially offset by an increase in revenues from cellular phone activities.

At the same time, Bezeq noted that in the first quarter there was an increase in the amount of all kinds of telephone usage. Use of Bezeqnet was up 400%, while the number of phones with voice mail reached 500,000.

Erel also noted that the results do not yet reflect the efficiency measures being implemented by the company. By the end of next year, the Bezeq work force will be reduced by a total of 1,800 people.

COMPANY RESULTS

By JERUSALEM POST STAFF

saving the company NIS 400 million a year.

Communications Minister Limor Livnat yesterday officially approved Cable & Wireless's bid to increase its holding in Bezeq to 13% and at a later stage to 20%.

In a statement, Livnat said she welcomes the integration of foreign companies into the Israeli

economy and in particular in the telecommunications sector.

Bank Mizrahi's net income was down 27.6% in the first quarter to NIS 39.1 million, compared with NIS 54m. a year earlier. Revenues were NIS 158.5m, up 4.4% from NIS 151.8m. a year earlier.

Customers savings totaled NIS 38.3 billion, an increase of 21.6%, while credit totaled NIS 34.6b., up 17.5%.

Koor, meanwhile, will announce its results this morning, with company chairman Charles Bronfman saying "they may not be that

good." Speaking to a business lunch of the Friends of the Israel Museum, Bronfman added that the company intends to proceed with its plans to concentrate on two or three core sectors. These, he said, will be expanded, "some vertically, some horizontally and some geographically."

While thanking outgoing CEO Benjamin Gaon for his "heroic efforts" the last decade, Bronfman said more must be done to eradicate the influence of a union-type work ethos that still exists.

Central bank cuts lending rate 0.3%

By DAVID HARRIS

The Bank of Israel yesterday announced it will cut its key lending rate by 30 basis points to 11.6 percent in June, the fifth consecutive monthly fall.

In January the central bank's rate stood at 13.4%. Interest rates are now at their lowest level since June 1994, when the central bank set its lending rate at 11.5%.

Last night the commercial banks followed suit, announcing a 0.3% interest rate cut.

In a statement, the central bank said the cut, which had been widely predicted by economists, was made possible by the continuing advances in reducing inflation, both in terms of the present rate of inflation and expectations for the months ahead.

Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman said yesterday he hopes inflation will end the year under 5%. "Inflation is a most unfair tax on the lower incomes in society," he said.

The cut was made despite a considerable increase in money supply last month and a large jump in the consumer price index. "We don't look at the figures for a one-off month," said a central bank spokesman.

The central bank is currently working under government instructions to reduce inflation to some 2%-4% by the year 2001, in line with western countries.

While the official target for the year was set by the cabinet at 7%-10%, Neeman has indicated on several occasions he does not hold by such a target once it has been surpassed.

In recent days, Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frenkel said he hopes the government will continue to reduce its target on a year-by-year basis until 2001, at which point the aim should be to maintain price stability.

The Manufacturers Association, which on Sunday called for a 1% cut, described the central bank's decision as "insufficient."

Direct communication

Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri (right), Jordan Telecommunications Minister Sami Ghamou (center) and Arabsat board of directors chairman Mohamed Saad al-Shahri stand at the opening of a general assembly meeting of satellite operator Arabsat yesterday. The three met in Beirut to discuss ways to improve the company's operations. (Reuters)

Tadmor calls for opening up banking sector

By NINA GILBERT

The worst financial concentration in the economy today is in the banking sector, according to Antitrust Authority Director-General David Tadmor.

There are 19 commercial banks here, 12 of them part of four groups, and five of the strongest banks have assets of \$10 billion each, Tadmor said. The five "are only 26% of all banks in Israel, but their assets are 94.6% of all bank assets in the country," he said.

The assets of the two biggest groups - Hapoalim and Leumi - are more than 60% of all bank assets in the country, he noted. "This is a very highly concentrated market, compared with the United States and Europe." The big banks in Israel are very big compared to the economy in which they are operating, he said.

"I would like to see more than two big banks, not a lot of small banks," Tadmor added.

He also noted that the insurance sector is also

very highly concentrated, with five insurance groups having more than 92% of the market. Two of the biggest groups, Clal and Migdal, hold more than 55% of the market.

In the institutional sector, state of the oldest pension funds hold almost 82% of the market, Tadmor said. Keren Mifalim holds more than 50% of the market. All funds with more than 3% of the market are controlled by the Histadrut.

Among the provident funds, more than 90% of assets are controlled by the big banks. According to Tadmor, they should be an alternative source for financing in the financial markets. "However, at the moment, they are not offering competition to the commercial banks at this stage," he said.

Tadmor was speaking in Herzliya at a seminar on anti-trust issues. He was also joined by Industry and Trade Minister Nathan Sharansky and guests from the US Department of Justice's anti-trust division.

Sharansky said that Israel and the US have

decided to establish an anti-trust cooperation agreement that is to be in place in a month. "We would not want our country to be a shelter for countries avoiding anti-trust limitations," he said.

Daniel Rubinfeld, a deputy in the US Justice Department's antitrust division, noted that, in the case of Microsoft, "big does not mean bad." However, the anti-trust measures were necessary in the case of Microsoft's linking of its Internet Explorer with its Windows 98 program. "At present, Internet Explorer has 50 percent of the browser market," he said. "It is crucial to stop the use of monopoly power before the market tips." Internet Explorer is a crucial product, because its Java language can also be used for operating platforms.

Microsoft Israel has committed to implement here anti-trust arrangements reached with the US Justice Department. Windows 98 is due to arrive in Israel in English at the end of June and is to be available in Hebrew at the end of September.

Late payments up 50% in building sector

By NINA GILBERT

Late payments in the building sector were up 49.5 percent in the first quarter from the same period in 1997, according to a survey by Business Data Israel. They also rose 3.7% from the previous quarter.

The average delay in payment in the first quarter was 22.75 days, up 1% from the previous quarter and 22% higher than a year earlier.

There was a reduction of activities in 1997 in all areas of activity in the real estate sector. Revenues fell 15%, and the number of new and second-hand apartments sold dropped 20% to 103,000 transactions, according to a Dun & Bradstreet survey of the sector released yesterday.

In 1997, the number of new mortgages decreased 17% from 1996, reaching their lowest level since 1990. This was attributed by D&B to the drop in the number of

arrivals of new immigrants, inflated prices, the freeze on the level of government-backed mortgages, and the rise in interest on mortgages.

According to the D&B new rankings released yesterday, Dankner Investments has boosted its position among leading real estate companies in the country and became the fourth largest last year with \$377 million in assets. In the 1996 survey, Dankner was ranked No. 8.

Its growth was attributed to the fact that it won a number of tenders from the Israel Lands Administration. The company boosted its investment in assets by 90% to \$376.8m., while its revenues totaled \$152.09m., an increase of 125.8%.

Industrial Buildings Co. is still the country's leading real estate company, with \$612m. in assets, a growth of 12% from 1996. Revenues were \$57.7m.

Manufacturing production up annualized 7% in 1st quarter

By DAVID HARRIS

Manufacturing production grew at an annualized seven percent in the first quarter, the Central Bureau of Statistics reported yesterday.

These updated figures also showed 16% growth in industrial exports during the same period.

Furthermore, the number of hours worked from January to March rose a yearly 1.5%, with the number of workers rising 1%.

At the same time the Bank of Israel published its monthly inte-

grated index of economic indicators, which showed a 1.5% increase in April, after a 0.7% rise a month earlier.

Within the index, retail sales rose 8% and the import index shrank 7.6%.

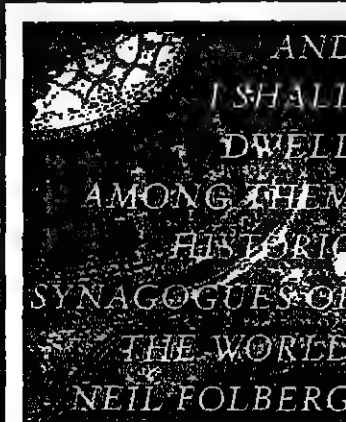
Meanwhile, the Central Bureau announced that overall hotel nights declined 3.5% to 4.6 million in the first four months compared to the same period last year.

Of that figure, 2.5 million were foreign tourists, down 17%-18% on the same time last year, and the remainder were Israelis (up 21%).

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And I Shall Dwell Among Them

Historic Synagogues of the World
Photographs and commentary by Neil Folberg

For the last three years Neil Folberg, a former student of Ansel Adams, has travelled the world, visiting Jewish communities past and present and photographing both grand-scale and modest synagogues, in places ranging from India to the Czech Republic, to Israel, the American South and the Caribbean. An essay by Yom Tov Assis focuses on the social and cultural history of the Jews, and Neil Folberg's first-person account of his photographs accompanies each of the chapters, which are divided into geographic regions. A superb full color album, it provides a vibrant window onto the Jewish cultural past. Published by Steimatzky.

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Building Blocks

By NNA GILBERT

■ Citing their low prices and developed community services, RE/MAX has selected Katzar, Pardes Hanna, Ashdod, Netanya and Beersheba as attractive places for young couples to buy their first apartments.

Katzar, a community between Hadera and the Meggido Junction, has three-room houses for \$90,000 to \$115,000. Additions can be built on to all of the homes. Some 600 families already live in the community, which has schools, a community center and a central swimming pool. Enlarged mortgages are available for purchase of homes for those entitled to Housing Ministry assistance. Residents also enjoy a 7 percent discount on income tax.

In Netanya's Kochavei Netanya development near the town country club, three-room, 85-sq.m. apartments are being offered for \$147,000. Extra government-backed loans of NIS 50,000, and NIS 100,000 loans from the contractor are being offered in the project until the end of June.

In Beersheba's Neve Ye'elim project in the center of town, young couples are being offered NIS 40,000 in grants and an extra NIS 30,000 loan. A three-room 90-sq.m. apartment in the development is priced at between \$92,000 and \$97,000.

In Pardes Hanna, in the Neveh Pardesim project, three-room apartments start from \$100,000.

In Ashdod, three-room apartments near the center of town and the shopping mall can be obtained for \$100,000.

JERUSALEM area

■ A five-room two-story apartment on Rehov Korel Hadorot in Arnona was sold by Ziv Nehesim, via the Shiran multi-listing service, for \$470,000 after four months on the market. The high-standard home has a total of 140 sq.m., a garden, parking and a store-room.

■ In Bayit Vegan on Rehov Shahrul, a four-room apartment on the fourth floor without an elevator was sold for \$185,000 via Shiran. The apartment, with some 100 sq.m. and a porch with a panoramic view, was sold after a month on the market.

■ In Katamon, a four-room 95-sq.m. apartment on Rehov Bruria was sold for \$230,000. The third-floor apartment has three porches and a store-room.

■ The Malibu Company has sold five three-room apartments in its Mevasseret Malibu project since it began marketing, for a total of \$1.2 million. The \$17m. project includes 57 units on an eight-dunam area including a park in the new development area of Rechav Halilim.

Three-room 100-115 sq.m. apartments are priced between \$245,000 and \$275,000; four-room apartments start at \$340,000 and duplexes at \$430,000.

TEL AVIV and center

■ The Italy-based Di-Veroi Siani Company has begun construction of the "Italian Colony" project in Tel Aviv at a cost of \$20m., \$7m. of which is for land and development costs. The project includes three buildings with 137 high-standard units, from two room apartments to five-room penthouses. In the center of the project, a 16-dunam park will be constructed. The project is about a kilometer from the beach in Kiryat Shalom in south Tel Aviv, off the Kibbutz Galuyot exit of the Ayalon freeway. Two rooms start from \$149,000; three cost \$178,000 to \$199,000; four rooms are priced between \$214,000 and \$227,000. Penthouses start at \$345,000.

■ A new four-room house in the settlement of Lapid was sold for \$230,000 by Century 21. The house, on Rehov Galil, has 90 sq.m. and sits on a 465-sq.m. plot. A second story of 80 sq.m. can be added to the home. The asking price was \$250,000.

In nearby Modi'in, a new three-room apartment in the Shikun Uffiah building on Rehov Habazit on the first floor was rented by the agency for \$370. The 85-sq.m. apartment has a large porch.

■ Mishab, the housing company specializing in projects for the religious public, is building Mishkanot Elad, a 90-unit housing development in Elad, near Kibbutz Nahshonim on the road between Shoham and Rosh Ha'ayin.

Forty-four homes valued at \$62m. have already been sold in the project which includes three-, four- and five-room apartments. Prices start at \$117,000 for three rooms, \$158,000 for four rooms, and \$179,000 for five rooms. Those entitled to Housing Ministry mortgages will also be granted extra loans of NIS 30,000.

Last week, Housing Ministry Director-General Meir Shlomo Greenberg informed the Association of Contractors and Builders that the ministry does not intend to develop more land in Elad in the near future, the association said. The group requested the meeting because of rumors that the ministry was planning to develop an area of small or discounted apartments. These reports caused a slowdown in sales of projects under way, according to the association.

■ Malibu has also recently sold 10 220-sq.m. cottages worth \$3.9m. in its Shmurat Malibu project in Ness Ziona. The homes are priced between \$370,000 and \$400,000. The development has a total of 400 housing units, 160 of them cottages, covering a 115-dunam area.

Eighty-five units have been sold thus far. The company is also marketing 22 300-sq.m. plots for independent construction for \$169,000 each.

What's next for Suharto's empire?

By KEITH B. RICHBURG

JAKARTA, Indonesia — As president Suharto last week began the life of, as he put it, "a simple citizen," Indonesians faced a new and potentially wrenching question: what to do about the billions of dollars in wealth amassed over three decades by Suharto, his children and his cronies?

A large part of Suharto's mixed legacy to his country is a massive, far-flung business empire, sometimes referred to as "Suharto, Inc.," controlled by his six children, a half-brother, and a host of other relatives, friends, associates and assorted hangers-on.

The Suharto children are all reputed to have become multimillionaires by trading on their direct line to the presidential palace, involved in everything from clove cigarettes to toll roads, from petrochemical plants to automobile manufacturing. So pervasive is the first family's reach into the Indonesian economy that a long-running joke here is that the corruption begins as soon as you arrive in Jakarta's international airport. You can buy a pack of cigarettes, hop in a taxi, take the toll road to the city and check into a hotel, putting money into a Suharto family member's pocket with each step.

Several family members head their own business conglomerates. Son Bambang is at the top of the Bimantara group, which produces the Caltra automobile, owns newspapers and broadcast outlets and is involved in petrochemicals, a gas pipeline and the major stake in the

Grand Hyatt Hotel.

A younger son, Hutomo Mandala Putra, or "Tommy," runs the Humpass group, with involvement in communications, the clove monopoly, and a competitor local car, the Timor. Daughter Siti Harjanti Rukmana has the Citra Lankor Gung group, which has built toll roads and other facilities, and is involved in power stations and transportation projects.

And the children aren't the only ones. Suharto's half-brother Sudwikatmono is in banking, monopolizes movies here through his control of the import of films and all the theater chains, and has a variety of restaurants, supermarkets and hotels. Even a Suharto grandson, Ari Sigit, is getting into the act, with retail outlets, a share in a water distribution company in Jakarta, a share of tax collection

on alcohol sales and the lucrative monopoly for the export of birds' nests, which are used in Chinese food dishes around the region.

The blatant use of the family connection to win a commanding slice of the national economy has made the Suharto relatives the object of widespread hatred — more so, it seems, than Suharto himself. During the violent outbreak in the capital on May 14, rioters targeted the most recognizable symbols of the first family's wealth, including offices of Bambang's Bimantara company and Tommy Suharto's Timor showrooms. Golden Truly grocery stores owned by Sudwikatmono were also looted and burned.

Suharto himself has always lived modestly, largely shunning Indonesia's official presidential palace, Merdeka, and remaining at

his comfortable house in the Candana district. He has never been known to dress in fancy clothes or wear expensive jewelry.

Still, he is reported to be one of the world's wealthiest individuals, with *Forbes* magazine calculating that he is the sixth-wealthiest person in the world, with a net worth of \$16 billion. The Suharto family was listed as worth a total of \$30b.

Much of Suharto's own wealth is generated through an extensive network of charitable foundations he heads. Money raised by the charities has been used to support the political operations of the ruling Golkar party. Critics have called for investigations into whether Suharto has transferred his wealth to secret bank accounts in Europe.

FOR THE young protesters whose bold "people power" movement

toppled Suharto's carefully constructed New Order regime, seizing at least some of the first family's wealth and returning it to the nation's cash-strapped treasury is now the unfinished part of their revolution.

"I don't agree with this (resignation)," said Benny, 19, a technical-school student from Trisakti University, who was standing apart from the other cheering young people celebrating the news of Suharto's departure at the parliament grounds. "His children are still the heads of businesses. They must be charged, brought to court."

Arief Nurbani, 25, an economics student, noted that "first and foremost, the wealth must be nationalized. That wealth belongs to the people."

In the minutes after Suharto announced his resignation, and Bacharuddin Jusuf Habibie was sworn in as Indonesia's third president, the commander of the powerful armed forces delivered his own terse message: "The military will protect Suharto and his family." But with Suharto now out of power, many here say that whatever impunity his children enjoyed may have evaporated.

"If I were the kids, I'd be gone," said a Western diplomat and longtime Indonesia-watcher, speaking anonymously.

In Indonesia, retrieving the wealth of the Suharto children may prove difficult. One problem here is that much of the Suharto children's money is invested in companies that are publicly listed on the Jakarta Stock Exchange.

"Do you destroy these companies just to get at the kids?" a diplomat asked. "And what about the rest of the shareholders?"

Some financial analysts said that even if a future Indonesian government decided to seize the children's assets in publicly listed companies, minority shareholders likely would be unaffected.

One view is that if left alone, the Suharto children will fall victim to market forces. And even after the crisis eases, they will have lost their connection to the presidential palace, and thus their ability to make new money.

"Firstly, they won't get any new contracts," said Australian academic Harold Crouch, an Indonesia expert. "Many of their businesses are virtually bankrupt now. Their only asset is their father. What foreign investor will go into business with them now?"

(Washington Post)

As for President Habibie

By HEINZ FAHME

JAKARTA — The wealth of new Indonesian President Jusuf Habibie and his family is beginning to draw the same attention that helped bring about the ouster of his predecessor Suharto.

In more than 20 years as a government minister, Habibie and his family have amassed a fortune estimated at US \$500 million through diversified interests in chemicals, construction, real estate, transportation, communications and even a cocaine farm.

At the same time, Habibie has presided over the industrialization and modernization of Indonesia, presiding over the national air program.

Much of the Habibie money comes from supplying the government companies he controlled as research and technology minister, including the multi-billion dollar national aircraft company.

His family's other interests have also secured key positions in state businesses and agencies.

When it comes to cozy capitalism, Habibie is a mainstay.

Suharto's economist Michael Backmann said on Sunday.

"The one widespread feature about Habibie is that he has fewer children than Suharto," he said.

Success by telephone from Australia.

The Suharto empire has long been the subject of newspaper estimates. Habibie's family and other relatives control assets worth \$40 billion.

The flagship of Habibie's business empire is the Timor Group, a conglomerate headed by Habibie's youngest brother, Suyatno Abdulrachman Habibie, known as Lanny.

The new president's two sons, Ilham Akbar, 25, and Harun Kemal, 31, Habibie's younger sons, are also active in business, and several other relatives are also involved in the family businesses.

Other relatives have businesses of their own.

Timor, set up in 1977, controls more than 80 companies and is ranked as Indonesia's 54th largest conglomerate.

Timor makes a large part of its money from supplying a range of goods to state aircraft firm Industri Pesawat Terbang Nusantara (IPTN), which has booked an almost \$5b. of public money.

However, IPTN's future is now divided after the International Monetary Fund (IMF) demanded the government halt funding for the company as a condition of a \$412m. international financial bailout package.

Habibie, 61, and Suharto, 70,

and his family's business empire have also worked closely, sharing information and sharing partnerships.

Joint ventures between the two empires include a piggy bank jointly set up on an island near Singapore that supplies almost 10 percent of that island's piggy bank.

Other partnerships include chemical plants on the islands of Java and Sumatra and a 50-50 joint venture in telecommunications with AT&T Corp.

Indonesia's newspapers say Habibie would not have been chosen for the business dealings of the president and his associates. But the stunning reversal in Suharto's fortunes, spearheaded by student protesters who had denounced his head for leading Indonesia into a severe economic crisis, seems to have smashed old habits.

After just four days in office, newspapers have already begun questioning Habibie's business interests, saying that like Suharto, he has a reputation for handing out favors to friends and family.

"Habibie is not only a son of political privilege, but is perceived as an anti-market personality who favors nepotism and cozy capitalism," the *Jakarta Post* said in the editorial by Sudarto.

After just four days in office, newspapers have already begun questioning Habibie's business interests, saying that like Suharto, he has a reputation for handing out favors to friends and family.

Unlock the secrets of the stock market

A stock's earnings ratio, the reciprocal of the ubiquitous P/E, is actually a more understandable tool for measuring and comparing returns

The first technical nuance most investors learn about the stocks they own is their price-to-earnings, or P/E, ratio. That's the relationship between a stock's price and its earnings per share.

"Earnings" are a company's official after-tax profits. So the P/E tells you how many dollars it costs to buy a dollar's worth of today's earnings.

Newspapers list the P/Es for thousands of stocks in their daily market tables, so the numbers are easy to find. Currently, the P/E for the Dow Jones Industrial average of 30 huge companies is 23; for the broader Standard & Poor's 500 index, it's 26.

By comparing the P/Es of different companies, or measuring them against the averages, you can get an idea of whether a stock could be a bargain. For instance, the current P/E of Intel Corp. is 21, while the P/E of General Motors Corp. is 8 and the P/E of Cisco Systems, Inc., is 82.

In his book *What Works on Wall Street*, James O'Shaughnessy calculates that, between 1952 and 1994, the 50 lowest-P/E stocks in the S&P returned an annual average of 13.5 percent, compared with 11.4% for the S&P as a whole. Over that period, a \$10,000 investment became \$2.3 million in low-P/E stocks, \$1.0 million in the S&P and just \$467,000 in high-P/E stocks.

Still, I am not a big fan of P/E ratios — for two reasons. First, they are an extremely crude tool,

since they're based on an earnings snapshot, and it's not difficult to manipulate profits in the short-term. Second, a P/E by itself doesn't have much intrinsic meaning that relates to real life; it's just a detached number.

CONSIDER, by contrast, the reciprocal of P/E, otherwise known as E/P, or earnings yield. You take a company's earnings per share and divide it by the stock's price. What you get is something understandable, something you can compare to other yields.

For example, over the past 12 months, Intel has earned \$3.82 per share; the stock's price early last week was \$79.50. So, its earnings yield is \$3.82 divided by \$79.50, or 4.8%. (You can get the same result by taking the P/E of Intel, which is 21, and dividing it into 1.) Now, 4.8% is a true, vibrant, meaningful number. We can compare it with a 30-year Treasury bond, which yields 5.9%; inflation, at 1.4%; a money-market fund, 5.0%; a tax-free, long-term municipal bond, 5.2%; or a typical low-risk real estate investment, 8%.

Unfortunately, most investors have never heard the term "earnings yield." That's a shame, because the concept can help you unlock the secret of the stock market.

How? Well, first, some background on earnings yields. An excellent piece in the current issue of *Dow Theory Forecasts* explains that "a stock's value depends on the stream of earnings the company is expected to

MARKET WATCH

By JAMES C. GLASSMAN

generate on your behalf." That's the earnings yield, and it is why you own a stock — to share in the flow of cash the company generates from its operations.

Some of that cash gets paid out to shareholders in the form of dividends — one-third of total earnings, on average. The rest gets plowed back into the company in the hopes of additional profits. If investors believe that this internal investment is sound and the prospects of the company are bright, the stock's price will rise. But never forget that the objective of all stock purchases should be to get a piece of a company's action — its profits.

So, a stock's earnings yield tells us something very important: It's the percentage of our investment that we can expect to see returned to us this year — or put back into the company on our behalf — as profits.

A second point: Investing involves choices. We select among stocks, but we also pick between stocks on the one hand and bonds on the other. Thus, comparing a stock's earnings yield and a bond's dividend yield makes a lot of sense.

Let's do that. Last week, IBM Corp. was trading at \$125 a share; in the previous 12 months, it had earned \$6 per share. So its earnings yield is 4.8% (the same, by

coincidence, as Intel's). But a 30-year Treasury bond is yielding 5.9% to maturity.

Why would anyone want to own IBM if it yields 1.1 percentage points less than a Treasury bond? Well, I would — because IBM's earnings are almost certain to increase over the years while a Treasury bond's dividend payout will stay the same. IBM's profits will rise (if we can judge by history) at a rate considerably faster than inflation.

IN ITS May 11 issue, *Dow Theory Forecasts* lists stocks which, based on this kind of analysis, will have projected earnings yields of over 10% in the year 2002. For example, Allen Telecom, Inc., which makes products for wireless base stations, had an earnings yield, based on estimates of 1998 profits, of 7.5%. But Allen is expected to increase those earnings at an annual rate of 21%. If it does, then its yield in 2002 will be 15.8%.

The newsletter lists six stocks, in addition to Allen Telecom, as recommended purchases based on their projected earnings yields in 2002. They are: Vishay Intertechnology, Inc., semiconductor components, with an estimated yield of 14.4%; ECI Telecommunications, Ltd., digital telecom equipment, 14.1%; Philip Morris Cos., tobacco, beer and food, 14.0%; Callaway Golf Co., golf clubs, 13.8%; ITT Technologies, Inc., electronic security, 11.9%; and Rollins Truck Leasing, 10.1%.

With an earnings-yield strategy, you should search for stocks with low P/Es and high growth rates (again, you'll have to do some guessing, or rely on analysts' projections). But, just as important, you have to hold on for the long haul.

Another way to play the earnings-yield game is by looking for companies with a record of strong dividend growth. General Electric Co. has been increasing its payout by 13% annually over the past five years. Right now, the dividend is \$1.20, and the stock trades at about \$84. In the next five years, at a 13% pace, the dividend will rise to \$2.21, for a 2.3% return on your original investment. In another five years, the payout will be nearly 5%.

Three good mutual funds that search for stocks with rising dividends are Fidelity Dividend Growth, which has returned an annual average of 32.8% over the past three years; T. Rowe Price Dividend Growth, at 28.6%; and Franklin Rising Dividends, 28.2%. Both the Price and Franklin funds receive the top rating ("1") from Value Line for combining high returns with low risk.

At last report, Price's top holding was Fannie Mae, the mortgage maker, which has been increasing its dividends at a furious pace of 18% annually, on average, since 1993. Franklin's was Family Dollar Stores, which has been raising dividends by 13% a year.

By contrast, when you buy a bond, the interest rate you start with is the interest rate you keep forever; no one raises it by 13%, or even 1.3%. (Washington Post)

CONFERENCE CIRCUIT

By GRIFFIN J. CASHMAN

26.5 Zevulun Orlev, secretary-general of the National Religious Party, and Labor MK Nissim Zivili, will discuss the political administration over the past two years at a Bar-Ilan University study day. The event will honor the publication of *Israel at the Polls 1996*, edited by Professors Daniel Elazar and Shmuel Sandler. The discussion will take place at Bar-Ilan's Schleifer Hall.

26.5 Firex '98, a two-day conference on safety in the work place and fighting fires, will be held at the Tel Aviv Fairgrounds. In addition to numerous subjects related to fire prevention, the conference will also deal with industrial medicine.

3.6 The Economic Repression as Leverage for Business Opportunities is the provocative title of a conference organized by Ma'ariv Congresses at the Tel Aviv Hilton. Speakers will review the economic status quo and its causes, examine immediate investment potential and forecast the economic picture for 1999.

8.6 Tel Aviv University is hosting a lecture by Prof. Louis Henkin of Columbia University on *The Universal Declaration of Human Rights — 50 Years Later*. The lecture will take place in the Law Faculty Building.

8.6 Bess Center founder Thomas O. Hecht will be among the speakers at Bess's three-day Research Workshop

of the Israel Science Foundation. The umbrella theme of the workshop is "Democracies and their armed forces toward the 21st century: Israel in comparative context." While most of the speakers are from Israel's institutes of higher education, others hail from the US, the UK, Canada, Germany, France, Italy and Hungary. The workshop will be held in the Beck Auditorium of Bar-Ilan University.

18.6 Israel Railway enthusiasts will meet at the Carter Building adjacent to Beit Hatfutsot at Tel Aviv Fairgrounds. Each participant is expected to bring documented material including rare photographs pertaining to the Israel Railways.

21.6 The Jerusalem Seminar on Architecture will convene for three days at the Jerusalem International Convention Center to discuss *Megaprojects as Urban Landscape*. Leading architects from Europe, the US, South America and Israel will focus on the harmonizing of the megapolis.

2.7 Netmedia '98 is a two-day conference of hands-on workshops for journalists on web production, on-line design, computer-assisted reporting, cyberlaw, marketing, mobile connectivity and digital newsroom management. Participants will be made aware of what is really happening in the burgeoning world of interactive digital media, and will be taught how to develop the skills needed for the age of on-line journalism. The conference will be held at City University, London.

0520 1020

Demand outstrips offer in \$8b. Spanish utility sale

By SHARMAN ESAREY

MADRID (Reuters) — Investors scrambling to buy shares in the \$8 billion sale of utility giant Endesa, placed orders for more than four times the stock on offer in the first week of Spain's largest privatization, market sources said yesterday.

More than one million small investors placed bids valued at 3.14 trillion pesetas (\$20.9b.) for the stake in the group, putting Endesa on track to becoming the most widely held Spanish share.

The orders decisively outstripped the 756b. pesetas, or 70 percent of the sale, devoted to small investors in the initial week of the offering.

Endesa Chairman Rodolfo Martín Villa said in a newspaper interview last week that Endesa would win 400,000 new small investors in this sale. This would lift its total small shareholder base to two million, surpassing telecommunications giant Telefonía.

Retail investors will get a 3% immediate discount, plus an additional 3% loyalty bonus if they hold their shares for at least six months.

Analysts had predicted strong retail demand for the offering of shares in Spain's dominant electricity provider, which marks a crucial step in the government's drive to sell off all of its non-mining interests by the year 2000.

Still, traders were caught off guard by the overwhelming interest in Endesa, given the unprecedented bourse offerings of more than \$10b. in April and May.

These included a \$2.82b. rights issue in Telefonía.

"The strong minority investor interest in Endesa is remarkable given the volume of new shares from Telefonía and other recent sales," said one Madrid-based trader.

"The Endesa privatization is generating strong liquidity, but it's hard to justify four-fold interest in a sale of this size," he added.

Demand was particularly strong when compared to this year's earlier and smaller privatizations of bank Argentaria and tobacco group Tabacalera.

It almost equaled the 4t. pesetas retail investors bid overall for the most recent sale of former Tabacalera. They bid 5.5t. for the state's remaining 29% of Argentaria.

But since then hefty offerings have, at least theoretically, mopped up some of Spain's excess savings that have been pushing the bourse to gains of some 40% this year.

A sharp drop in Spanish interest rates has lowered the yields on government debt and prompted investors to look for higher returns in the stock market.

Bids are expected to increase towards the end of the Endesa sale. Non-binding orders can be placed through June 1, with the irrevocable order period running from June 2 through 5.

Endesa shares rose yesterday in line with the market after outperforming last week on the back of strong retail demand.

Last week Endesa rose nearly 7% compared with the IBEX-35 which added 4%.

Yen plunges to 7-year low

LONDON (Reuters) — The yen slumped to its lowest level in nearly seven years against the dollar yesterday, and was seen sliding further, amid speculation the US may be forced to tolerate the loss of competitiveness that such weakness brings.

European shares extended gains. Paris and Frankfurt broke to new high ground but business was thin as Britain and the US were closed for bank holidays.

Yen losses were triggered after yesterday's issue of *US News & World Report* reported US Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin was willing to let the yen weaken to 140 or even 150 per dollar if that was the only way to keep Japan's economy from collapsing.

Bearishness was fanned as Rubin passed up an opportunity to deny the report on Sunday and instead stuck to his oft-repeated statement that a strong dollar was in the US interests.

While Japanese threats of intervention yesterday lifted the yen off its lows, analysts were pessimistic about its outlook.

"It may seem strange the US is still underlining it is interested in a

strong dollar policy when its trade deficit is widening, but there is no other chance of stimulating the Japanese economy and the Asian region," said Stefan Schilbe, economist at Trinkaus & Burkhart in Düsseldorf.

"Although we are seeing lip service from Japan about the possibility of intervention, this only provides good buying opportunities as the market will want to test the psychological 140 level."

The dollar rose as high as 137.15 yen, its strongest since August 1991, while the mark rallied to 77.86 yen, its best showing since January 1993.

With trading volumes depressed by a British holiday, the dollar was at 136.88 yen at 1036 GMT from 135.75 late in Europe on Friday. Mark/yen was at 77.63 from 77.22 on Friday.

The US markets also were closed yesterday.

Peter Dixon, economist at Commerzbank in Frankfurt, said he expected to see the Bank of Japan intervene if the dollar threatened to top 140 yen.

Wariness of intervention grew in the wake of Japanese officials' remarks.

CURRENCIES

Dollar 1.647

Basket 3.9035

Mark 2.0683

Sterling 5.9416

Japanese Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto said yesterday he was not happy about the recent weakness of the yen while Japanese Vice Finance Minister Koji Tanami said Japan would take decisive action against yen weakness.

The risk that yen weakness could trigger a new round of weakness in Asian regional currencies was cited by analysts as one of the reasons why the Bank of Japan could intervene.

Meanwhile, dollar/mark was steady, well supported by German price reports which indicated inflation was likely to remain in check.



Currency dealers yell during afternoon trading on the Tokyo Foreign Exchange yesterday. (AP)

TASE reaches another all-time high

Tel Aviv

Stocks rose to an all-time high yesterday for a third day, led by Koor Industries Ltd. on expectations the company is reorganizing to improve profitability during the coming year.

Koor, Israel's largest holding company, added 0.4 percent to NIS 472 before reporting earnings results.

The gain helped the Maof Index of 25 largest companies to add 0.42% to 351.37.

While daily newspaper *Globe* said the holding company is expected to report an 80% drop in first-quarter profit because of reorganization charges, that's seen as preparation for improved profitability down the line. Excluding the charge, Koor's net income for the quarter would have risen 13% to NIS 240 million, the paper said.

"The market understands that new owners Claridge Israel Ltd. are doing a house cleaning to show improved profit in the coming quarters," said Eli Nahum, head trader at Zannex Securities of Ramat Gan.

Earlier this year, Claridge Israel, Koor's controlling shareholder, appointed its chief executive, Jonathan Kolber, to replace Koor Chief Executive Benjamin Gaon. Kolber had said he wants the company to focus on managing its investment rather than operating its businesses.

Bezeq Ltd., the state-owned telephone provider gained 1.2% to NIS 12.22, after posting a 13% drop in first-quarter earnings because a decline in international phone rates wasn't offset by an increase in phone usage. Giora Zarechansky, an analyst at Ilanot Batucha, said the results were in line with his expectations and that the company is still being traded at a discount compared to peers abroad.

Cla Insurance Enterprise Holdings Ltd. gained 1.8% to NIS 45. Israel's second-largest insurer said first-quarter profit dropped 66%, excluding a one-time gain, because of an increase in auto-insurance claims from a rise in car theft.

"We expected the earnings to be poor, primarily on the general insurance side. The trend is expected to improve" on higher earnings from fixed-income investments, narrowing of losses in general insurance from a slowing rate of car theft, and continued rises in life insurance premiums, said Dov Iskowitz, an analyst at Ofek Securities.

Formula Systems Ltd. gained 1% to NIS 164.5. The software maker said after trading ended on Thursday that first-quarter profit almost doubled to \$15.1 million as revenues increased 70% to \$52.5m. Formula's American depositary receipts gained 4.6% in the US from Wednesday to Friday, the trading sessions corresponding to the Israeli weekend.

Cla Industries and Investments Ltd. dropped 0.5% to NIS 20.6. The company was downgraded to "hold" from "buy" at United Mizrahi Bank.

(Bloomberg)

STOCKS

Maof 351.37 + 0.42%

Dow Jones no trading

FTSE no trading

Nikkei 15783.11 + 0.12%

Europe

Strong German shares largely shrugged off the economic data.

By midday the Xetra DAX index of 30 blue-chip shares was up 0.72 percent, led by gains in Daimler-Benz and Siemens. Daimler-Benz is expected to give further details of its plans to merge with Chrysler at its general meeting tomorrow.

Deutsche Telecom shed 0.70 marks to 48.60 on news the European Commission would ask anti-trust experts from the EU states to block its proposed alliance with Kirch-Bertelsmann.

French shares were basing in new record ground on the first day of the new bourse month. The CAC-40 index was up 0.96% at 4,088.58 points.

Despite the new index peak dealers said they expected the market to see a relatively quiet and choppy day with London and the US on holiday.

Among individual stocks, chem-

icals and life-sciences firm Rhone-Poulenc jumped more than 3.0% in lively trade ahead of its shareholders' meeting today. It is expected to provide insights then on business so far this year and give more details about the float of its Rhodia unit.

"I think we can hold the gains, but we are not going to see any really significant movement with New York and London closed. Where should the impulse come from?" one trader said.

Hungary's BUX index closed sharply lower yesterday following a sell-off frenzy by local investors in the wake of an opposition victory in general elections concluded on Sunday, traders said. The BUX is now down 9.1% this year and has lost 16.2% since the first round of elections on May 10. (Reuters)

Asia

Japanese stocks were little changed for a second day, as banks fell on concern bad loans will continue to weigh on profits while railroads and utilities rose as investors looked for companies offering the prospect of stable revenues in a weak economy.

"There's a lot of uncertainty about how far banks really are from the end of the tunnel," said Hitoshi Yajima, a company director at Tachibana Investment and Management Co. "With little good news to go on, investors are playing it very safe."

The benchmark Nikkei 225 stock index fell 18.53 points, or 0.12 percent, to 15,783.12. The

broader Topix index of all shares on the first section of the Tokyo Stock Exchange fell 3.48 points, or 0.28%, to 1,226.71.

Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi Ltd. dropped 66 yen to 1,475 after posting a net loss of 524.35 billion yen in the year ended in March because it disposed of 1.43 trillion yen in bad loans.

Japan Railways Co. rose 6,000 yen to 652,000 after forecasting profit will rise almost 4% to 68.8 billion yen this year.

All nine of Japan's largest lenders have recorded net losses after writing off a total of 7.5 trillion yen in bad loans, and market participants expressed skepticism about forecasts calling for profits to recover this year.

"No matter what they say, banks are still turning the corner," said Nomura's Farnon. "And they might get into another accident on the way."

Banks and trading companies also were sold on concern they may be unable to recoup millions of dollars lent to companies in Southeast Asia if political and economic instability in Indonesia undermines regional markets.

Sumitomo Bank Ltd. fell 23 yen to 1,307 and Dai-ichi Kangyo Bank Ltd. dropped 27 yen to 859, while Itochu Corp. led a decline among trading companies by tumbling 15 yen to 315.

Japan's seven largest trading companies held 1.5 trillion yen in credits to Indonesia as of March 1998, the *Nihon Keizai* newspaper reported yesterday, citing a Ministry of International Trade and Industry survey. (Bloomberg)

Ukraine's tough road to the marketplace

By IRENE MARUSHKO

SUMY, Ukraine (Reuters) — The seeds of market reform are falling on barren soil in Ukraine, one of the world's most fertile countries, as private farmers struggle for a toehold in state-controlled agriculture.

There are some 30,000 farmers in the former Soviet republic who have turned their backs on state farms, which dominate the sector and enjoy full government backing and financial support.

"The law says anyone who wants to be a private farmer can be a private farmer. The government does not obey its own laws," said Ivan Budko, who cultivates 250 hectares (618 acres) with his two grown sons and sister in the Sumy region.

He is one of a thousand farmers sharing 180,000 hectares (444,000 acres) of land in this region, about 400 km. northeast of Kiev.

Private land ownership, although guaranteed in the constitution, is still far from reality with most farmers only able to get short-term leases.

Budko was one of the country's first to win title to land a year before the country of 50 million became independent in 1991.

Most private farmers work from dawn to dusk and live hand-to-mouth, deliberately underestimating annual yields for fear of paying extremely high taxes.

"This country doesn't need farmers," Budko said as 50 farmers met in a Sumy hall to complain about the small plots of infertile soil the government gave them.

Other complaints included the oppressive tax system and difficulties in obtaining seeds and fertilizers for sowing.

"I have four hectares of land and seven people to feed. I have to pay taxes here, there and everywhere. There is a school tax, a Chernobyl tax," complained one farmer.

A regional official, reflecting the overall government attitude to private farmers, berated them for not dropping into the office to say hello, for failing to put name signs on their properties and for having too many weeds.

"We are very unhappy with your work," he said. "All we have are transgressions, transgressions, transgressions."

State-run farms have been part of Ukraine's history for more than 60 years, when Soviet dictator Josef Stalin forcibly collectivized Ukrainian agriculture. Stalin's policy deliberately created a famine in which up to seven million people starved to death.

Ukraine's state farms are "one of the greatest tragedies this century," Harvard economist Jeffrey Sachs said after a recent visit to the region. He urged the government to remove administrative and organizational barriers to private farming.

"[Ukraine] should be feeding the world, you can be feeding the world, someday you will be feeding the world," Sachs said. "But not until the farm sector is properly reformed and private farmers are in the lead with all the efficiency

and energy that they will bring."

Ukraine may be covered in layers of rich black soil but it now depends on food imports. Half of the country's food is produced by private citizens — a survival mechanism they adopted after living standards plunged with the economic collapse which followed independence.

Every year the government pours money into state farms, even though private farmers produced about four million tons of grain from the 35.4 million ton harvest in 1997.

"The Ukrainian leadership is still on the side of the largest producers of grain, as in the last four decades," said a Ukrainian agricultural analyst. "Their experience is based on the collectives," he said, adding that privatization of many state farms, by dividing them among employees, has made little difference.

Each year harvest campaigns grow more problematic in Ukraine, which has forecast a grain crop of 35 million tons this year, as the government struggles to find money to buy the necessary fertilizers, pesticides, machinery and fuel.

The government has kept a stranglehold on the sector, often taking grain brought to state elevators and not paying for it.

"The truth of the matter is small private farming is definitely off the radar screen as far as the government is concerned," said a Western agricultural analyst.

This has scared Ukrainians away from private farming.

Volodymyr Honcharenko, speaking in his cosy home on 28 hectares of land near Sumy city, said his neighbors viewed him as an enemy when he left the collective farm.

His wife, working as a nurse in a nearby town to supplement the family income, will not tell anyone her husband is a private farmer for fear of earning denigration reserved for "capitalists."

Private farmers face prohibitive interest rates for loans that are invariably short-term, even though Budko said private farmers pay back credits taken from the government while state farms rarely do.

Several large US companies which supply inputs announced recently they would have credits of about \$300 million this year because of unpaid debts from state farms.

"We always have problems. We have to deal with the bureaucracy here," said Galen Bechtold, director of the Sumy office of Global Ag Management, a US company which leases land in the Sumy region from collectives and private farmers to farm.

"We feel there is potential to be profitable but it's not like falling out of bed. You have to make this thing work," he said.

Budko said he would rather be a free farmer than answer to the government.

"There are lots of problems in life but if you give up you can't survive," he said. "All private farmers believe in doing things on their own. Life requires work, not rest."

Cotton soars 4% on dry Texas weather

Cotton

Cotton rose almost 4 percent, the biggest gain in almost three months, on expectations that hot, dry weather will reduce a US crop already expected to be the smallest since 1993.

Hot, dry weather in Texas, the biggest cotton-growing state, and in the Mississippi River Delta could damage newly planted crops. Concern about the crop boosted prices 10% from a four-year low last month.

"There may not be enough moisture to help seeds germinate properly," said Will Leatherman, a manager at Conti Cotton, a marketing and trading firm in Greenville, North Carolina. "With a long dry stretch ahead, people don't want to be short."

Cotton for July delivery rose as much as 2.42 cents, or 3.6%, to 69 cents a pound on the New York Cotton Exchange, the highest since March 30, if cotton closed at that level it would be the biggest

gain since March 2. It's also dry in the main cotton-growing regions of the Mississippi River Delta, the third-largest growing area in the US after Texas and California. (Bloomberg)

Metals

Precious metals were mixed in slow trading with both the British and US markets closed for holidays. Dealers said they expected narrow ranges to prevail barring unexpected developments.

"I don't think very much is going to happen," one metals analyst at a major Swiss bank said. "Gold will stay around \$300, perhaps a bit lower or a bit higher."

Gold opened at \$299.40/299.90 an ounce, down slightly from the London close on Friday at \$300.10/300.60 and barely changed from levels in New York, where pre-holiday book-squaring had brought prices down.

Silver eased from late Friday levels, opening at \$5.26/5.30 ver-

COMMODITIES

Gold \$299.75 + 0.90%

Crude Oil \$14.05 + 1.30%

CRB 222.55 + 1.67%

London's \$5.34/5.37 close.

Other metals were firmer amid continuing jitters about stalled deliveries from Russia, the world's biggest palladium producer. Palladium started at \$355.00/365.00, up from Friday's \$345.00/355.00, while platinum advanced to \$380.00/383.00 from \$378.00/380.00. (Reuters)

Energy

Crude oil rose for a second day on Friday on concern that the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries could

announce further production cuts during the long US holiday weekend.

To combat a global oil glut and boost prices, 17 OPEC and non-OPEC producers agreed in a late-March weekend meeting to cut oil production by 2.3 percent. So far, the reductions have not moved prices the way OPEC hoped so traders now speculate the producers could announce further cuts in another weekend meeting.

"Over a three-day weekend anything could happen," said Tom Bentz, senior vice president-emergence at Cresvale International LLC in New York. "You don't want to be caught flat-footed."

Crude oil for July delivery rose 15 cents, or 1 percent, to \$14.78 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange. In London, July Brent crude was up 8 cents at \$14.06 a barrel on the International Petroleum Exchange.

Though cuts could come from OPEC, concern eased that shipments from Iraq would be disrupted next month.

Iraq and the United Nations could reach agreement next week on a plan to distribute revenue in the oil-for-food program, a UN spokesman said. The agreement would pave the way for oil exports of about 1.5 million barrels a day to be continued past June 3, when the current round of sales expires.

Even so, traders were cautious about selling contracts on the last day of trading before the three-day Memorial Day holiday weekend. News about production cuts over the weekend could cause prices to rise quickly.

Petroleum products were little changed. June heating oil fell 0.08 cent at 39.71 cents a gallon on the Nymex, and June gasoline was up 0.18 cent at 49.06 cents a gallon.

Prices have been falling over the past five months because of a world oversupply of crude oil. The oversupply was reflected in the American Petroleum Institute's report Tuesday that US inventories last week were at their highest in almost five years.

(Bloomberg)

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Ra'anana-Kfar Sava: Kupat Holim Maccabi, 49 Hachayal, Ra'anana, 747-7733.

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Haila: Haila, 22 Haila, 823-1905.

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Upper Nazareth: New Pharm, Lev Ha'ir Mall, 657-0468, Open 9 a.m. to 10 p.m.

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Brain - Emotional First Aid - 1201, also Jerusalem 02-561-0303 (Arabic: 563-0301).

Tel Aviv 03-546-1111 (children/youth: 546-0739); Rishon LeZion 0

'Greatest ever' soccer team to be unveiled

LONDON (Reuters) - Ferenc Puskas had the best left foot ever seen, Johan Cruyff's close ball control was spellbinding and Diego Maradona had a touch of genius in every part of his body.

Those are some of the revealing comments from Sir Bobby Charlton and Pele on the players up for inclusion in the World Team of the 20th century, due to be announced by World Cup sponsors Mastercard on the day before the World Cup finals start in Paris on June 10.

The 32 teams competing in the World Cup finals will be joined by a 33rd team in France, one that, on paper at least, would definitely beat all the others in the competition.

The team of the century will be chosen by an international media panel in Paris from already-selected European and South American teams of the century.

Sir Bobby, a member of the England team who won the World Cup in 1966, and Pele, who played for Brazil's winning team in 1958 and 1970, are nominally the captains of the two sides and gave their observations of the players chosen to represent their two continents.

The European Team of the Century lines up as follows: Lev Yashin (Soviet Union); Franz Beckenbauer (West Germany); Bobby Moore (England); Paolo Maldini (Italy); Franco Baresi (Italy); Johan Cruyff (Netherlands); Michel Platini (France); Eusebio (Portugal); Ferenc Puskas (Hungary); Bobby Charlton (England); Marco Van Basten (Netherlands).

The South American selection is: Ubaldo Fillol (Argentina); Carlos Alberto (Brazil); Elias Figueroa (Chile); Daniel Passarella (Argentina); Nilton



TIP OF THE TOP - Brazilian soccer legend Pele comments on soccer dream team.

(Reuters)

Santos (Brazil); Didi (Brazil); Alfredo Di Stefano (Argentina); Rivelino (Brazil); Garrincha (Brazil); Pele (Brazil) and Diego Maradona (Argentina).

Speaking in New York, Pele ran through his team with some revealing insights. "Fillol was an inspirational goalkeeper whose agility and safe hands were decisive in helping Argentina win the World Cup in 1978," he said.

Of Carlos Alberto, Brazil's captain when they won the World Cup in 1970, he said: "His pace meant that he could be an extra attacker, yet still fulfil his defensive duties.

"Figueroa was Chile's greatest ever player and probably the most poised defender in South American soccer history.

"Passarella was one of the hardest-tackling central defenders in the history of the game, who possessed great power to surge forward and turn defence instantly into attack.

"Nilton Santos was equally respected by teammates and opponents and was never afraid to contribute his wise opinions on tactics and team selection, while Didi was one of the last great 'midfield brains' of his era

in the late 1950s and early 1960s. He was the first player to show the world how Brazilians can 'bend' a free kick.

"Di Stefano was the commander of the Real Madrid side which was perhaps the greatest club side of all time. He was a tireless worker as a center-back one minute and scoring goals as a center-forward the next.

"Pele, of course, would play in attack in this team, along with two Brazilians and Maradona.

Cheever holds on to win Indy 500

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) - Eddie Cheever had always been just another name at the Indianapolis 500. Not anymore.

On Sunday, he not only drove the winning car, he owned it, too.

Cheever narrowly avoided a first-lap accident, was able to overcome a pit mistake at midrace, and then held off Buddy Lazier to earn the biggest victory of his life.

"I had a couple of close calls and I came out of them OK," he said.

The 40-year-old Cheever, whose only other victory in an Indy car came in January 1997 in a rain-shortened race at Orlando, Florida, was nearly speechless when he first stepped out of his Dallara-Aurora race car.

But he quickly got into the spirit as many in the usual sellout crowd of nearly 400,000 stood and cheered.

"I was either going to win or not finish at all," said Cheever, who came perilously close to the wall several times in the last 10 laps.

Cheever, whose best previous finish in eight Indy

starts was fourth in 1992, almost saw his day end on the first turn of the 500-mile event.

"I turned at the start of the race and somebody bumped me in the rear and turned me sideways," Cheever said. "I thought, 'I don't want it to end this way.'"

His next big problem came during a pit stop on lap 85 when the nozzle from the fuel hose stuck in his car and he nearly pulled away with it still attached.

This was also a victory for Indianapolis Motor Speedway president Tony George, who started the Indy Racing League in 1996 to give teams and drivers without big dollar sponsorships a chance.

Cheever, who took his victory lap around the 2½-mile oval in a convertible with George at his side. He pulled away from Lazier, the 1996 Indy winner, after the 12th and final caution period, racing off to a 3.91-second win - about a third of the last straightaway - to become the first driver-owner to win since A.J. Foyt in 1977.

Steve Knapp, another of the eight first-year Indy starters, finished third. He was followed by Davey Hamilton, Unser and front-row starter Kenny Brack.

De Bruin faces lifetime ban

Malaysian officials: Foreign athletes won't be flogged for drug abuse

LAUSANNE (Reuters) - Ireland's triple Olympic champion Michelle de Bruin faces a life ban after the sport's world governing body confirmed yesterday that a random urine sample had been altered.

In a statement from its headquarters here, FINA said a second test on a urine sample from De Bruin tested in a Barcelona laboratory last Thursday confirmed suspicion of tampering.

"These results indicate suspicion of physical manipulation," FINA said. "The case will immediately be submitted to the FINA Doping Panel for trial in accordance with the FINA rules for consequences of doping control."

If the panel confirms the findings, De Bruin could be banned for life. De Bruin, whose career has been dogged by allegations of doping since she won three titles at the 1996 Atlanta Olympics, has consistently denied any involvement in doping.

Her solicitor Peter Lennon said last week there was no evidence de Bruin herself had interfered with the samples.

"Our client, in the light of no evidence of her having physically manipulated the sample, is more determined than ever to fight any charges that may be formally brought against her," he said.

Meanwhile, international athletes testing positive for recreational drugs during the Commonwealth Games won't be flogged, the chief organizer of the games assured yesterday.

Rattan cane lashes were reserved for traffickers and not addicts, said Hashim Ali, executive chairman of Sukom 98, the organizing committee of the games to be held in Malaysia in September.

"If you carry more than 15 grams (one-half ounce) of drugs, you are classified as a pusher... These are the guys the laws are strict at."

Israel's top athletes to be honored

By JOEL GORDIN

MORE than 50 of Israel's finest sportspeople - one or two representing each year since the founding of the state - will be honored on Thursday afternoon at a gala event organized by the Israeli Olympic Committee.

The event, to be held at Tel Aviv University Elie stadium, will be a salute to 50 years of sport in Israel, the committee's honoree secretary Yoram Oberkowitz announced at a press conference yesterday.

The representatives from more than 10 sports will receive medals from the committee. Certificates will also be awarded to veteran coaches and to all those who have ever represented Israel at Olympic games from 1952 to 1996.

The list of what Oberkowitz termed the "Israeli sports hall of fame" includes soccer goalkeeper, the legendary Ya'acov Hodorov (chosen as sports person of the year in 1949) and ends with basketball and soccer stars Oded Katash and Haim Revivo (jointly chosen for 1998).

Among the national icons in the lineup are former Maccabi Tel Aviv basketball players Ralph Klein (1959), Tanhum Cohen-Mintz (1961), Mickey Berkowitz (1975), Tal Brodie (1977) and

Doron Jamchee (1988); national soccer stars Yehoshua Glazer (1950); Mordechai Spiegler (1968); Oded Machness (1983); Uri Malmilian (1986) Ronnie Rosenthal (1989) and Eli Ohana (1993); tennis ace Amos Mansdorf (1985); Olympic hurdling finalist Esther Roth (1972); the two judokas who won medals at the 1992 Barcelona Olympics, Yael Arad (1992) and Oren Smadja (1995); windsurfer Gal Friedman (1996) who won bronze at the Atlanta Olympics in 1996 and his arch-rival Amit Inbar (1991) who was runner-up in the world championships in 1992 and 1997.

Two handicapped sportspeople are on the list: swimmer Izhak Cohen (1990) and shot putter Nachman Wolf (1990).

Speaking at the press conference, Yael Arad said that "once Israelis regarded it an honor simply to participate in international events. Now we should try and gain results in these events. But the country's sportspeople can only achieve international results and stride towards the next century if the government changes its attitude and gives more money to sport."

Thursday's event will be shown live on Channel One starting at 20:45.

Glamorgan beat Northants

LONDON (Reuters) - Results of English one-day league cricket matches yesterday:

At Northampton: Glamorgan beat Northamptonshire on run rate calculation. Northamptonshire 239-7 in 40 overs (J.Saunders 77 not out). Glamorgan 177-5 in 23.3 overs (A.Cotey 77 not out). Glamorgan 4 points.

At Taunton: Somerset beat Surrey by 7 wickets. Surrey 127 all out in 38.1 overs (R.Jones 3-16). Somerset 330-3 in 29.5 overs (M.Lathwell 64 not out). Somerset 4 points.

At Horsham: Derbyshire beat Sussex by 6 wickets. Sussex 148 all out in 38.3 overs (K.Dean 4-26). Derbyshire 150-4 in 37.2 overs (M.Slater 66). Derbyshire 4 points.

At Edgbaston (reduced to 24 overs): Nottinghamshire beat Warwickshire on run rate calculation. Warwickshire 102-9 in 24 overs (P.Straus 6-32). Nottinghamshire 122-3 in 22.3 overs. Nottinghamshire 4 points.

At Chesham: Essex beat Lancashire by 3 wickets. Lancashire

188-3 in 40 overs (M.Atherton 70; R.Irani 4-32). Essex 190-7 in 36.1 overs (R.Irani 95 not out). Essex 4 points.

At Canterbury: Kent beat Durham by 100 runs. Kent 319-4 in 40 overs (A.Wells 118, C.Hooper 100, M.Eatham 54 not out). Durham 219 all out in 38.3 overs (P.Collingwood 62, D.Headley 4-36). Kent 4 points.

At Leicester: Leicestershire beat Hampshire by 117 runs. Leicestershire 205-3 in 40 overs (P.Nixon 60 not out). Hampshire 88 all out in 30.3 overs (J.Dakin 4-14, V.Wells 4-24). Leicestershire 4 points.

At Uxbridge: Middlesex beat Worcestershire on run rate calculation. Worcestershire 138-9 in 40 overs (J.Hewitt 4-24). Middlesex 120-3 in 28.5 overs (O.Shah 61 not out). Middlesex 4 points.

At Gloucester: Yorkshire beat Gloucestershire by 9 runs. Yorkshire 215-9 in 40 overs (M.Smith 4-29). Gloucestershire 209 all out in 39.5 overs (M.Alleyne 88; P.Hutchinson 4-34). Yorkshire 4 points.

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GLUM'S THE WORD - Lakers' Robert Horry (l), Sean Rook and Mario Bennett sit dejectedly as the Jazz complete their four-game sweep. (Reuters)

Lakers need sweeping changes

INGLEWOOD, Calif. - For four years, he has steered this town's professional basketball hopes with brains and class. But we awaken this morning to find ourselves in a ditch. The front end is crumpled. The tires are blown. There's smoke coming from somewhere.

MY CALL

By BRI PLASCHKE

A week ago, Los Angeles and its beloved Lakers were smiling, laughing, speeding happily toward the city's first pro championship in a decade.

Monday morning, we are unrecognizable.

We will eventually crawl out, shake ourselves off, begin searching for reasons. But ultimately, we must all look behind the wheel.

For four years, Del Harris has steered this team toward greatness. But somebody else may be needed to finish the trip.

In one sickening instant Sunday, everything changed, and for no one more than a coach who last week looked like he could work here forever. Now you wonder if he will last the month.

Or if he should.

It wasn't only the Lakers who were swept by the Utah Jazz in four games in the NBA Western Conference finals.

Also disappearing was a buzz that had not been felt in this town since a distant October night in Dodger Stadium.

Swept was the goodwill generated by a brilliant series win against the favored Seattle SuperSonics.

Swept was the inspiration of a tough series win against the Portland Trail Blazers.

Do you still have the memories? Or did the brilliant, big-hearted Utah Jazz also sweep those? It was written in this space that if the Lakers won the second-round series against the SuperSonics, Harris should keep his job because they advanced farther than last year.

They were not realistically supposed to beat the Jazz, a team with the best record in the NBA. But it was not supposed to look, with the exception of a couple of quarters, like the varsity against the freshmen. Harris was not supposed to look like he had been outcoached.

Even with 61 regular-season wins, Harris was unable to guide this team through the most difficult but important stretch of road in recent franchise history.

OK, so the front office gives him a couple of smarter or more

dedicated players. Is there reason to think he wouldn't spin out on this same stretch next season? Right or wrong, the players turned a deaf ear to Harris during his biggest speeches of the season. And right or wrong, it appeared that whatever he told them wasn't working anyway.

PRO basketball is a game of adjustments.

The Jazz, after beating big San Antonio, adjusted to the quicker Lakers. The Lakers, after beating quicker Seattle, did not adjust to the more disciplined Jazz.

Some Laker players implied that Harris did not make those adjustments. Harris said he did, but that the players didn't execute. No matter who is right, the coach ends up looking wrong.

Even if Harris made the proper changes, then the players aren't responding to him. And to have that occur after two full seasons with a team is almost worse than Harris not making the changes at all.

Are the players also responsible? Absolutely. Sunday's loss was another example of how, whatever Harris told them, they certainly weren't listening. Several times in the fourth quarter, after closing the gap to six, they would throw up a quick shot or commit a hurried turnover instead of working the ball into Shaquille O'Neal.

Often on defense, they would work hard for 20 seconds, then relax for the final four. It was during those final four ticks that the Jazz would do their best driving, slashing work.

Different score, but it was the same game as the previous three games. Not only didn't they adjust before the series, they didn't adjust during the series. They never quite figured out how to stop the pick and roll. They never had quite the right matchups that would exploit their speed against Utah's size.

The roster absolutely needs to be retooled. It needs more players who work as hard and play as smart as O'Neal, who in recent months, has become this franchise's soul.

But the roster may also need to be redirected. Beginning with the Game 1 blowout, the Lakers played with only occasional passion. They never seemed quite focused. Even when they were ahead, it was as if they were behind. (Los Angeles Times)

Yankees pound Red Sox, 14-4

BOSTON (AP) - The New York Yankees gave David Cone more support than even he's used to, batting around twice against the AL's leading pitching staff and beating the Boston Red Sox 14-4 Sunday.

The win increased the Yankees' AL East lead to six games over second-place Boston. They won twice in the three-game set, and have not lost a series since opening the season with two losses at Anaheim.

The Yankees, who averaged 8.5 runs in Cone's previous eight starts, scored seven runs in the third and six more in the fifth.

Bret Saberhagen (5-3) pitched just 2 1/2 innings and allowed seven runs and eight hits. It was his third consecutive poor outing, a span in which he's 0-3 with a 17.10 ERA.

Cone (6-1) won his sixth consecutive decision despite falling behind 2-0 on runs in the first and second. Then New York started hitting.

Twelve players batted and seven scored in the third. Eleven batted and six scored in the fifth. Scott Brosius ended the scoring with his third homer of the season in the ninth.

Blue Jays 5, Indians 0

In Cleveland, Woody Williams allowed four hits in seven scoreless innings after flirting with a no-hitter in his last start, and Dwight Gooden lasted only three innings in his Cleveland debut.

Gooden (0-1) allowed three runs and seven hits in three-plus innings in the first start of his 13-year career for a team that does not play in New York.

Tigers 8, White Sox 4

Damon Easley and Tony Clark each homered to lead visiting Detroit to its ninth win in 12 games.

Easley hit his 12th home run with two out in the second and Clark connected on his fifth lead-off of the fifth. Clark went 3-for-5, hitting an RBI single in the third and a double in the sixth.

Royals 8, Rangers 3

Jermine Dye drove in three runs and visiting Kansas City stopped an eight-game losing streak.

Juan Gonzalez homered for the Rangers, who had won 10 straight home games.

Orioles 2, Athletics 1

Pinch-hitter Harold Baines doubled in the go-ahead run in the top of the ninth as Baltimore won consecutive games for only the second time this month.

Rafael Palmeiro, who along with teammate Roberto Alomar has been the subject of trade rumors as Orioles management considers whether to shake up its high-priced but disappointing club, gave Baltimore a 1-0 lead in the second inning with his 11th home run.

Mariners 3, Devil Rays 1

Randy Johnson matched a season-high with 15 strikeouts and Ken Griffey Jr. hit his 18th homer as Seattle snapped a five-game losing streak with a home victory.

Twins 9, Angels 1

Pat Meares had three hits, drove in three runs and scored three times, leading Minnesota to a road win.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Mets 8, Brewers 3

It didn't take long for Mike Piazza to bring Shea Stadium alive. With the All-Star catcher the main attraction, the Mets drew a sellout crowd at home for the first time in five years and won on Brian McRae's go-ahead, three-run double and Carlos Baerga's two-run homer.

Piazza, in his second game since the Mets acquired him from Florida on Friday, was 1-for-5. But his presence was larger - he



KEYSTONE SWIPE - Montreal Expos Jose Vidro steals second as Phillies SS Desi Relaford (l) and 2B Mark Lewis go after errant throw. Catcher Mark Parent was charged with an error on the play. Montreal won 5-4. (Reuters)

drew huge cheers and some standing ovations whenever his name was announced.

The crowd of 47,291 was the first full house at Shea since the 1993 season opener against Colorado drew 53,134.

New York swept the three-game series and have won 10 of their last 11 at home.

Expos 5, Phillies 4

Tyler Green lost his bid for a perfect game in the seventh inning, and visiting Philadelphia lost on pinch-hitter Robert Perez's sacrifice fly in the eighth.

Green retired the first 18 batters, then hit Jose Vidro with a pitch leading off a three-run seventh. Mark Grudzielanek followed with a sacrifice bunt that Green threw away for an error, and Vladimir Guerrero hit an RBI single.

Rockies 3, Reds 1

Bobby Jones allowed only two hits in seven innings and Larry Walker extended his hitting streak to 19 games, longest in the majors this season.

Slumping Vinny Castilla hit a tiebreaking, two-run single in the top of the sixth inning, setting up the Reds' seventh loss in nine games. The Reds committed another error - their major league-leading 48th - and misjudged a fly ball that figured in the Rockies' scoring.

Braves 2, Cubs 1

Tom Glavine pitched a three-hitter and Michael Tucker singled home the winning run in the bottom of the ninth inning off Terry Adams (2-3).

Marlins 4, Pirates 3

Cliff Floyd hit a two-run double in the bottom of the eighth inning off Jason Christiansen (0-1) as Florida rallied from a 3-0 deficit.

Giants 9, Cardinals 6 (17)

Visiting San Francisco had

already watched Mark McGwire wreck them once. They weren't about to let it happen again.

After McGwire hit a tying home run in the 12th, the Giants intentionally walked him with two outs and none on in the 14th.

San Francisco went on to win the longest game in the majors this season.

Barry Bonds hit a two-out, two-run homer in the Giants ninth that tied it at 4. Jeff Kent put San Francisco ahead 6-4 with a two-run homer in the 12th, but

McGwire tied it with two outs when he hit his major league-leading 24th homer off Robb Nen.

The Giants took advantage of a two-base throwing error by Kent Mercker (3-3) in the 17th. The longest previous game this year was 16 innings between Pittsburgh and San Diego on April 25.

The game lasted 5 hours, 45 minutes.

Diamondbacks 8, Dodgers 5

David Dellucci homered to give Arizona its first lead of the three-game series, and the

Shaw, Christensen (8) and Vincent (8) pitched 9 and 8 1/3 innings, respectively. L-Powell (9) and Zane (9) pitched 4-2. L-Christensen, 0-1.

Colorado 010 000 000-3 8 0

B.M.Jones, McElroy (8), Dipolo (9) and McGwire (9) pitched 9 and 8 1/3 innings, respectively. W-B.M.Jones, 4-3. L-Torres, 5-2. L-Dipolo (11).

Chicago 100 000 000-1 3 0

McGwire (9) pitched 9 and 8 1/3 innings, respectively. W-McGwire, 4-3. L-Torres, 5-2. L-Dipolo (11).

Philadelphia 001 000 000-4 7 3

McGwire (9) pitched 9 and 8 1/3 innings, respectively. W-McGwire, 4-3. L-Torres, 5-2. L-Dipolo (11).

Minnesota 111 000 000-3 10 1

New York 010 000 000-3 10 1

McGwire (9) pitched 9 and 8 1/3 innings, respectively. W-McGwire, 4-3. L-Torres, 5-2. L-Dipolo (11).

San Francisco 001 000 000-3 10 1

McGwire (9) pitched 9 and 8 1/3 innings, respectively. W-McGwire, 4-3. L-Torres, 5-2. L-Dipolo (11).

Los Angeles 001 000 000-3 10 1

McGwire (9) pitched 9 and 8 1/3 innings, respectively. W-McGwire, 4-3. L-Torres, 5-2. L-Dipolo (11).

San Diego 000 000 000-3 10 1

McGwire (9) pitched 9 and 8 1/3 innings, respectively. W-McGwire, 4-3. L-Torres, 5-2. L-Dipolo (11).

Arizona 000 000 000-3 10 1

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San Francisco 001 000 000-3 10 1

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Los Angeles 001 000 000-3 10 1

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Red Wings shut out Stars for 1-0 West lead

DALLAS (AP) - Martin Lapointe had a goal and an assist and Chris Osgood

needed to stop only 14 shots for his 10th career playoff shutout as Detroit beat Dallas 2-0 in the opening game of the Western Conference finals Sunday.

In the Eastern Conference finals, Buffalo played at Washington last night. Buffalo leads the series 1-0.

The Stars finished with the top point total in the regular season, but failed to show any of that powerful offense on Sunday.

The defending Stanley Cup champion Red Wings got the early jump in the best-of-7 series which continues with Game 2 today in Dallas.

Dallas applied early physical forechecking pressure to counter the Red Wings' rapid, short-pass transition game, but both teams could only manage a shot apiece in the first 10 minutes.

Detroit showed flashes of their rapid-fire attack in the first period, but were unable to connect on several one-time attempts.

The Stars power play was inef-

fective early and 0-for-4 overall, managing only three shots while former Stars left wing Brent Gilchrist was sent off for goalie interference.

Dallas also had no shots during a 46 second two-man advantage, courtesy of a check-checking penalty on Jamie Macoun at 10:27.

The Red Wings were shutout in their first power-play attempt, but scored on their third of the game. They went 1-for-6 overall.

Detroit capitalized on a four-on-three advantage just 57 seconds into the middle period: when Slava Kozlov slid a rebound into an open net for his fourth goal of the playoffs.

Stars goalie Ed Belfour, who stopped 21 of 23 shots, was caught out of position when Red Wings defender Nicklas Lidstrom's shot bounced off Lapointe's skate and landed to the right of the crease.

Detroit added another when Lapointe put a wrist shot past a screened Belfour for his sixth of the playoffs at 13:38.

Detroit 2 0 0 2-0

Stars 0 0 0 0-0

First Period-None. Second Period-1. Detroit, Kozlov (4) (Baptiste, Lidstrom), 57 (pp). 2. Detroit, Lapointe (6) (Macoun), 13:38. Third Period-None. Shots on goal-Detroit 7-0-22. Opportunity-Detroit 1 of 6. Dallas 0 of 4. Goals-Belfour 1 of 6. Dallas 0 of 4. Dallas, Belfour 1 of 6 (21-27). A-18,222.

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RUNS—Jeter, New York, 42; Griego, Oakland, 41; Griffey Jr., Seattle, 40; Rodriguez, Seattle, 38; Lofton, Cleveland, 38; Thome, Cleveland, 38; Ju Gonzalez, Texas, 37.

RBI—Ju Gonzalez, Texas, 81; Griffey Jr., Seattle, 41; Easley, Detroit, 40; Rodriguez, Seattle, 38; T Martinez, New York, 38; Justice, Cleveland, 38; Thome, Cleveland, 37; R Palmeiro, Baltimore, 37.

HITS—Rodriguez, Texas, 70; Erstad, Anaheim, 67; Rodriguez, Seattle, 65; Jeter, New York, 64; McCracken, Tampa Bay, 63; Ju Gonzalez, Texas, 63; Griego, Oakland, 62.

HOME RUNS—Rodriguez, Seattle, 18; Griffey Jr., Seattle, 18; Carasco, Toronto, 18; M Vaughn, Boston, 13; Ju Gonzalez, Texas, 13; O Lacey, Boston, 12; Easley, Detroit, 12.

STOLEN BASES—T Godwin, Texas, 19; Henderson, Oakland, 18; Stewart, Toronto, 14; B Hunter, Detroit, 14; Lofton, Cleveland, 13; Carasco, Toronto, 12; Jeter, New York, 11.

PITCHING (6 Decisions)—Wallerfield, Boston, 6-1, .857, 4.17; D Wells, New York, 6-1, .857, 4.38; Cone, New York, 6-1, .857, 6.00; Fassero, Seattle, 5-1, .833, 2.73; Sale, Texas, 5-2, .800, 2.57; Helling, Texas, 7-2, .776, 4.43; K Hill, Anaheim, 7-2, .776, 4.23.

STRIKEOUTS—Rodriguez, Seattle, 90; Martinez, Boston, 83; Griffey, Anaheim, 78; Carasco, Toronto, 60; Sale, Texas, 59; Colon, Cleveland, 56; D Wells, New York, 56; Moyer, Seattle, 56.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

BATTING—Bjorn, St. Louis, .377; Wiles, Atlanta, .374; Gwynn, San Diego, .363; Telford, Cincinnati, .359; J Guillen, St. Louis, .359; Mueller, San Francisco, .354; Walker, Colorado, .351.

RUNS—Bjorn, St. Louis, 43; Chones, Atlanta, 42; McGwire, St. Louis, 40; Gwynn, San Diego, 40; Glavinia, Philadelphia, 38; Walker, Colorado, 36; Delfino, Houston, 37.

RBI—McGwire, St. Louis, 80; Castilla, Colorado, 47; Chones, Atlanta, 42; Glavinia, Atlanta, 42; Alou, Houston, 40; G Vaughn, San Diego, 39; Burnitz, Milwaukee, 38.

HITS—Richette, Colorado, 75; Chones, Atlanta, 68; Mueller, San Francisco, 64; Gwynn, San Diego, 63; Glavinia, Philadelphia, 62; Vitas, Milwaukee, 61; Delfino, Houston, 61; B Jeter, St. Louis, 61; G Vaughn, San Diego, 60.

HOME RUNS—McGwire, St. Louis, 24; Castilla, Colorado, 17; Galarraga, Atlanta, 17; G Vaughn, San Diego, 15; Chones, Atlanta, 14; Mondesi, Los Angeles, 11; Burns, Colorado, 11; B Jeter, St. Louis, 11.

STOLEN BASES—Bjorn, Houston, 16; Womack, Pittsburgh, 18; E Young, Los Angeles, 18; Riancho, Florida, 15; Symes, Cincinnati, 13; B Jeter, Cincinnati, 12; G Lory, St. Louis, 12.

PITCHING (6 Decisions)—Schmidt, Pittsburgh, 7-1, .875, 3.88; Milwood, Atlanta, 6-1, .857, 3.86; Nease, Atlanta, 6-1, .857, 2.97; Boehringer, San Diego, 5-1, .833, 2.81; Lincecum, Chicago, 5-1, .833, 3.13; Glavinia, Atlanta, 7-2, .778, 2.01; 5 are tied with 7.50.

STRIKEOUTS—Schilling, Philadelphia, 117; Stodtmyer, St. Louis, 74; Wood, Chicago, 69; Martinez, Los Angeles, 68; Reynolds, Houston, 63; Nomo, Los Angeles, 62; K Brown, St. Diego, 58.

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Cheever wins Indy 500
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Sports Editors
Joe Hoffman & Ori Lewis

McGwire blasts 25th

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Grooving a pitch to Mark McGwire was about the only mistake John Thomson made.

McGwire became the first major league player ever to hit 25 homers before June 1, but Thomson then shut down the St. Louis Cardinals and led the Colorado Rockies to a 6-1 victory yesterday.

McGwire, on pace to hit 83 homers with 202 RBIs, has four homers in three games, and nine in the last seven.

Giants 3, Reds 1
Barry Bonds hit a 3-run homer and Orel Hershiser finished an unblemished May with a road win.

AMERICAN LEAGUE
Blue Jays 7, Red Sox 5

Jose Canseco, Jose Cruz Jr. and Shawn Green homered in Pedro Martinez's worst outing of the season, as Toronto won on the road.

Indians 7, Tigers 4
David Bell, facing his father Buddy for the first time, hit a debreaking, two-run double in the sixth as Cleveland won at home.

The Bells became the third father-son pair to face each other in the big leagues, joining Maury and Bump Wills and Felipe and Moises Alou.

See Sunday's baseball roundup, Page 18

Malone leads Jazz to sweep



INGLEWOOD (AP) — The Utah Jazz finished the job in the Western Conference finals Sunday. Karl Malone and John Stockton made sure of that. Malone scored 32 points, including 14 free throws, and grabbed 14 rebounds as the Jazz completed a four-game sweep of the Los Angeles Lakers, 96-92, to earn their second consecutive trip to the NBA Finals.

"I think the whole nation is surprised by the sweep," Malone said. "We just took it one game at a time and had the killer instinct."

In this year's championship, Utah will have the homecourt advantage, whether the opponent is Chicago or Indiana.

"No one else probably did, but we expected to be back," Malone said. "We didn't break out the champagne or anything like that, because we haven't done anything yet."

Stockton, Malone's quiet partner in Utah for 13 seasons, sank six free throws in the final 1:24. His last two with 10.5 seconds remaining put Utah up 94-90. The cool Jazz were 30-of-33 from the foul line — 10-of-11 in the fourth quarter — as they fought off the Lakers' last gasp.

Utah's only miss from the foul line in the final period was by Greg Foster after his dunk put Utah up 96-92 with 2.5 seconds left. Now the old men of Utah won't have to play again until next Sunday at the earliest as they await the outcome of the Eastern Conference finals in which the Bulls hold a 2-1 edge over the Pacers. Game 4 was set for last night in Indiana.

It was the first time Utah pulled off a playoff sweep in a seven-game series.

At least the Lakers, swept for the first time since Detroit did it in the 1989 NBA Finals, exited swinging. Except for a poor Game 1, Shaquille O'Neal was magnificent in defeat. And Sunday was no exception.

He scored 38 points, despite foul trouble, 11 of them in the last 3½ minutes in a final rally that almost caught the Jazz.

"I'm very frustrated," O'Neal said. "I've got to go home and live with it. You must learn to fail before you succeed."

Down 70-57 after Utah's Chris Morris hit a 3-pointer to start the fourth quarter, the Lakers seemed finished for sure. The Forum crowd fell eerily silent.

But O'Neal, Eddie Jones and, in his first strong play of the series, Nick Van Exel, mustered one last surge.

O'Neal even made 7-of-10 free throws during one stretch. His second three-point play in the quarter cut Utah's lead to 90-87 with a minute to play. But he missed two free throws with 27.6 seconds to play that could have cut the Lakers' deficit to one.

Instead, Malone was fouled, made two free throws and Utah was up 92-87 with 26.3 seconds to go. Kobe Bryant's three-point play cut Utah's lead to 92-90 with 22.7 seconds to play.

With unemotional calm that is Utah's trademark, Stockton sank his two free throws to make it 94-90. Van Exel's layup with seven seconds left cut it to 94-92, but the Lakers couldn't find anyone to foul and the Jazz got the ball to Foster for a dunk. Bryant fouled him, but by then it was too late.

The rally was the kind of spirited Lakers' effort that had been missing the rest of the series.

Sunday's game unfolded in a pattern that had become routine.

With coach Del Harris dressed fittingly in a black suit, the Lakers fell behind early, then played a game of catch-up they could never win.

When it was over, there was no big celebration. The Jazz just shook each other's hands and walked off the court.

Utah 96 30 27 20 29-86
Lakers 92 18 20 19 35-82
Utah (20) Malone 32-14-15-32, Russell 2-4-4-8, Foster 2-3-0-1-4, Hornsby 5-11-5-15, Stockton 1-4-6-8, Carter 5-7-1-2-11, Gray 3-8-0-0-8, Anderson 1-1-0-2, Morris 2-3-0-5, Carr 1-3-0-2, Totter 3-1-0-3-3-5
L.A. Lakers (22) Harris 0-1-2-2-2, Fox 3-0-0-8, O'Neal 1-0-10-10-10, Jones 8-18-2-2-10, Fisher 1-7-0-0-3, Bryant 0-0-0-0-0, Van Exel 5-8-3-4-11, Campbell 1-7-3-4-6, Bryant 2-2-2-5-6, Totter 2-7-2-3-5-2
Fouled out — Carr, Rebounds — Utah 42, Malone 14, Los Angeles 42 (Harris 6, Anderson 10, Stockton 9, Los Angeles 18 (Jones 6), Total fouls — Utah 32, Los Angeles 26, Technical fouls — None, Los Angeles coach Harris, Campbell, Flagrant — None — Malone, O'Neal, A-17, 505.



FAKED OUT — The Jazz's Karl Malone puts a move on Lakers' Shaquille O'Neal for two in second-quarter action.

Maccabi takes hoops crown

Hap. Jerusalem heads to Euro Cup

BY ELI GRONER

Another year, another championship.

Maccabi Tel Aviv won its fifth consecutive National Basketball League title, its 27th in the last 28 years, and 38th overall, with a 94-80 victory over Hapoel Eilat last night at Yad Elihu.

The win concluded a 3-0 sweep for the champions and ensured that Maccabi will compete in the prestigious EuroLeague again next season.

The Game 3 thrashing proved to be as easy as expected. Three-and-a-half minutes into the game, Randy White converted two free throws that gave Maccabi an 11-10 advantage. From that point, the lead only grew as Maccabi's balanced attack ensured that the second half would be primarily garbage time.

Eight different players joined in the scoring for Maccabi, with Doron Sheffer leading the way with 19 points. Sheffer concluded perhaps his finest season as a professional, adding five assists as well.

After the game, Sheffer refused to discuss his desire to make the NBA next season stating "Tonight, my only focus is on the championship." He added that "People took it for granted that we were going to win the championship, but they don't realize the amount of hard work that went into making this happen."

Randy White proved to be too much for Eilat to handle, tallying 18 points while playing solid defense. Rashard Griffith clipped in 14 points on a perfect 5-of-5 from the field. The bulk of Griffith's points came in the game's opening minutes. His most memorable shot, however, came with two minutes left when he buried his first 3-point attempt of the season.

Eilat seemed to be overwhelmed for the third game in a row. In the last two games, the southerners only effective offensive weapon was Amir Katz. Last night, Katz managed only three points on three shot attempts, while sitting on the bench for approximately 20 minutes.

Joe Harwell did an admirable job attempting to pick up the scoring slack by tallying 21 points, but continued disappointing performances from Eddie Elisma and Meir Tapiro proved to be too much to overcome.

Amidst the celebrations after the game, Maccabi Tel Aviv Chairman Shimon Mizrahi refused to discuss potential roster and coaching changes, saying only that discussions wouldn't begin for at least two weeks.

Some of it won't depend on him — both Sheffer and Griffith hope to play in the NBA next season — but it is important to consider what White had to say last night. "Perhaps our European disappointment stemmed from having too many new guys on the team and it took us too long to gel. If we keep the same group of players together next year, I guarantee that we'll do better in Europe."

It would also mean that the most popular Israeli team this decade would get to stick together.

In other news, earlier yesterday, the Israel Basketball Association board reversed its decision and awarded Hapoel Jerusalem a technical victory in Game 1 of its third-place best-of-three series with Maccabi Ra'anana. The game ended prematurely in the second half when a Kenny Williams slam dunk broke the rim, and no replacement basket was on the premises.

The decision means that Jerusalem will join Hapoel Eilat in the EuroCup competition next season.

On Tuesday the league board had decided to fine Ra'anana NIS 12,000, but ruled that the game should be replayed.

Hingis, Sampras advance

PARIS (AP) — There were no nasty surprises yesterday for the top seeds at the French Open, as Martina Hingis and Pete Sampras both posted straight-set victories on the first day of play.

Hingis took 49 minutes to beat Maria Sanchez Lorenzo of Spain, closing out the 6-2, 6-1 victory with a backhand winner.

Like Hingis, Sampras has never won here, and has made a victory at Roland Garros his major goal.

Smashnova wins

Israel's Anna Smashnova won her first-round match against Larus Neiland of Latvia, 6-3, 6-3. Her second-round opponent will be Emma Bernhardt of Switzerland who beat 12th seed Nathalie Tauziat of France, 4-6, 7-5, 6-4.

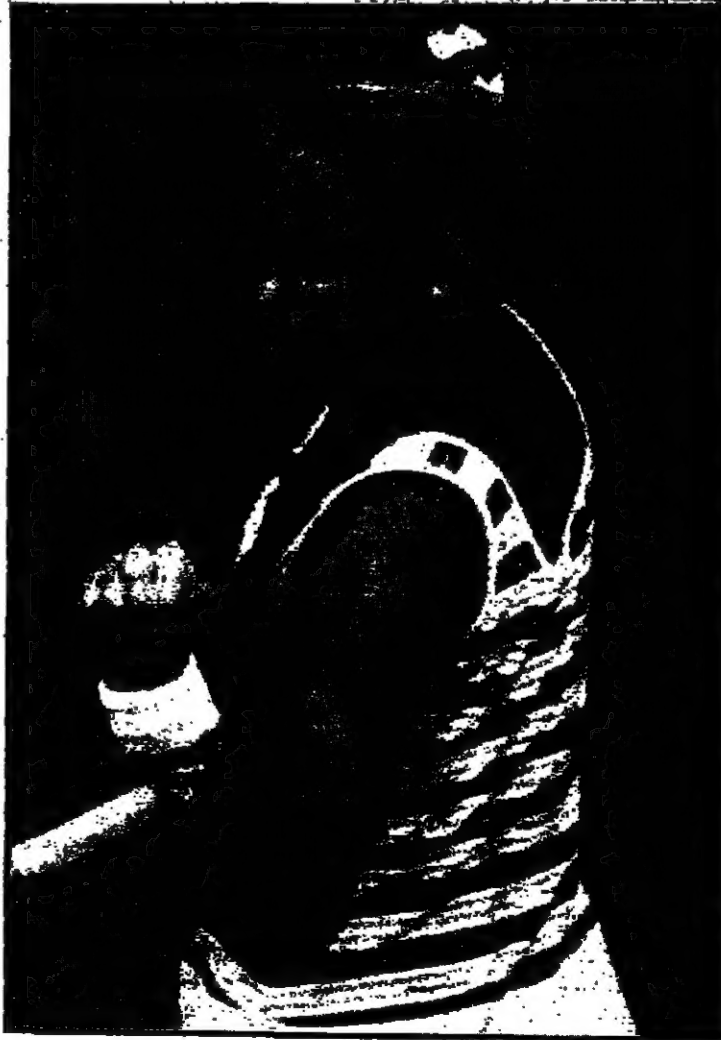
He faced fellow American Todd Martin in a potentially difficult match, but didn't have much trouble, winning 6-4, 6-3, 6-3.

Meanwhile, four of Hingis' potential rivals — attention-getting teenagers Venus Williams and Anna Kournikova, defending champion Iva Majoli, and third seed Jana Novotna — all won easily.

Venus, the No. 8 seed who played her first Grand Slam tournament at last year's French Open, had a shaky first few minutes against Tamarine Tanasugarn of Thailand, losing the first two games. But then she coasted to a 6-3, 6-1 victory.

The 13th-seeded Kournikova, a Russian blonde who has become a darling of the French press, defeated Amelie Mauresmo of France, 6-2, 6-4.

Third-seeded Marcelo Rios of Chile began what was expected to be a good run on the red clay of Roland Garros, beating Brett Steven of New Zealand 7-5, 6-2.



VICTORY SALUTE — Russia's Anna Kournikova gestures after beating Amelie Mauresmo of France, 6-2, 6-4.

3-6, 6-3. Rios had a little scare in the third set when he lost the first three games and had a trainer come look at his left arm.

Among the first seeds to lose was fifth-seeded Greg Rusedski of Britain, who fell to Johan Van Herck of Belgium, 6-4, 6-4, 6-4.

Johan Bjorkman of Sweden, the No. 7 seed, lost to Thomas Muster 6-3, 6-3, 6-3.

In a bad day for the Brits, Tim Henman followed Rusedski's loss by retiring at 2-5 in the first set against Sargis Sargsian of Armenia.

Charlton advance to Premier League

WEMBLEY (AP) — Charlton advanced to the Premier League for the first time yesterday by beating Sunderland 7-6 on penalties in a thrilling division one playoff game.

The game ended 3-3 after regulation and 4-4 after extra time.

The first 13 penalties were all converted before Charlton goalkeeper Sasa Ilic dived to his left to save Michael Gray's weak kick, sending the Addicks into England's top flight for the first time since 1990.

Clive Mendonca scored three goals for Charlton, the first ever hat trick in a Wembley

playoff, to give him a total of 28 goals for the season.

Mendonca gave Charlton a 1-0 halftime lead with a right-footed drive in the 23rd minute.

Sunderland went ahead 2-1 after Niall Quinn equalized with a header in the 50th and eight minutes later, Kevin Phillips scored his 35th goal of the season — breaking Brian Clough's club post-war record of 34 goals, set in 1961-62.

Mendonca equalized but Quinn seemed to have sealed victory with his second of the afternoon.

But Charlton's Richard Rufus sent the game into extra time when he scored the first goal of his career in the 85th minute.

He jumped high to head the ball into an empty net after Sunderland keeper Lionel Perez came out of his goal to chase a corner kick and was left stranded.

In extra time, Nicky Summerbee put Sunderland 4-3 up after nine minutes, slotting a right-footed shot into the bottom right corner.

But four minutes later, Mendonca scored his third goal with a brilliant overhead volley to force the penalty shootout.

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ISRAEL

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Haifa 27/22

Neranya 27/18

Tel Aviv 29/21

Eilat 38/24

Shown is today's weather. Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.

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